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18 October 1984

# Latin America Report

**FBIS**

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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18 October 1984

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PAPER RAPS U.S. TV FOR UNDERMINING CARIBBEAN VALUES

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 7 Sep 84 p 3

[Text]

In a broadside at live satellite broadcast of American TV programmes in the region, the Caribbean Contact, newspaper has charged that the the efforts of West Indians to value their own identity is being undermined by the imposition of values and consumption patterns originating elsewhere.

An editorial in this month's edition of Contact, published by the Caribbean Conference of Churches said that "uncritical, unsupervised retransmission of satellite television through local Caribbean stations should be reined in before it becomes established as a vehicle for a new colonisation of the minds and hopes of the people of the region.

"To accept, pay for, and retransmit to Caribbean audiences on a regular basis programming which at best treats the region as a silent and passive eavesdropper on a communication process in the developed world, and at worse instills in viewers a sense of the irrelevance of events and actions within their own cultural milieu, is a dehumanising

process."

Contact said that as a long term policy, this will undermine the slow, painful efforts of the people of the region "to value their own identity and to take the lead in creative identification and interpretation of their own priorities."

A major problem being created, according to the newspaper, is "that of widespread truancy among school children across the region who remain glued to television sets during school hours."

It cited as another problem the usual one-sided focus in international coverage of events, as recently displayed in the coverage of the Los Angeles Olympics.

The paper was critical, that on the one hand a number of states consider television to be such a powerful influence that they prevent the launching of local privately-owned stations, but on the other hand are prepared to allow unedited retransmission of programming from outside the region.

CSO: 3298/014



INTEREST SHOWN IN CUBAN BOOKS AT SAO PAULO FAIR

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 20 Aug 84 p 2

[Article by Jorge Timossi]

[Text] Sao Paulo, Brazil, 19 August (PL)--Cuban participation in the Eighth Biennial Book Fair in this city has aroused definite interest and attention on the part of the public, as the crowds at the stand exhibiting the publications of this Caribbean country indicate.

The book fair in this Brazilian city of 13 million inhabitants began last Thursday, and Cuba is represented by a delegation headed by writer Roberto Fernandez Retamar, who is vice president of the House of the Americas.

The interest aroused by Cuba is explained by the fact that this is the first time it has participated in this fair, and for about 20 years the Brazilian public has had no opportunity to evaluate the publications of this country in the Antilles.

The restrictions imposed on Cuban publications for all of these years were echoed when the customs authorities here held up the second shipment of publications for about 6 hours, in accordance with a provision prohibiting the import of materials from that island to Brazil.

This incident was resolved thanks to the efforts of the directors of the biennial fair and Deputy Fernando Moraes, and with the support of representatives of the press, who went to the airport immediately to report on this matter.

The Sao Paulo press devoted various commentaries and interviews to the Cuban delegation, and in an article entitled "Cuba and the Cultural Exchange," the influential daily O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO commented that the invitation issued by Brazil is related to the possible reestablishment of cultural exchange between the two countries.

In an interview carried over four Brazilian television stations, including that of O GLOBO, Fernandez Retamar said that the attendance of Cuba at the fair represents one more step toward closer relations between the two peoples.



He added that this is very important "in view of the indispensable need to reestablish relations between Brazil and Cuba, countries which are united by history, their origins and hope."

The poet commented that there is currently a real upsurge of interest in Brazilian culture in Cuba--music and literature, and also the broadcasting of three series on Cuban television.

The Cuban exhibit includes a representative sampling of titles brought out by such publishing houses as Letras Cubanas [Cuban Letters], Casa de las Americas [House of the Americas], Union, Cientifico-Tecnica [Scientific-Technical], Gente Nueva [New People], and those publishing books for children and works on the social sciences and art and literature.

In contacts and talks with the members of the Cuban delegation to the biennial exhibit, it was confirmed that the main Brazilian publishing houses will be represented at the Second International Book Fair in Havana, which will begin this coming 14 September.

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CSO: 3248/789

IMPACT OF CUBAN FILM FESTIVAL IN ARGENTINA ANALYZED

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 22 Aug 84 p 2

[Article by Victor Ego Ducrot]

[Text] Buenos Aires, 21 August (PL)--The Cuban film industry is preparing for its debut in the Argentine capital with seven full-length features and an equal number of short films.

Except for a few isolated examples dating back more than a decade now and an occasional special showing for small circles of followers of Cuban affairs, the filmmaking of that nation is an unknown element and a source of curiosity for the people of Argentina, who are enthusiasts of the seventh art.

Two facts justify the expectation, without fear of error, that the central hall where Cuban films will be shown for 7 consecutive days will be filled, or, as they say here, sold out.

With the resurgence of democracy 8 months ago Argentina opened its doors to Latin American cultural exhibits, and since that time Caribbean performances (Silvio Rodriguez, Pablo Milanes and the National Ballet of Cuba, for example) have been enthusiastically welcomed by the audiences.

In addition, the people of Argentina, who are familiar with Italian neo-realism, the French new wave, and the films of the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries, are lovers of new film developments, and have repeatedly shown their eagerness to identify with continental productions.

Although only isolated to date, the Latin American exhibitions in Buenos Aires, Brazil, Mexico, Peru and Nicaragua, among other countries, have always filled the halls and won over the critics, who although demanding and knowledgeable, have in all cases been complimentary.

When the Libertador Theater dims its lights on 30 August to project "Up to a Certain Point" onto the screen, the First Cuban Film Week in Argentina will have begun. However, this will also represent the first step in a process recently established here with the beginning of the young democracy.

For years, or more precisely since the March 1976 military coup, the people of Argentina have suffered from one of the harshest censorship campaigns in memory in the field of modern culture, within which moving pictures had the "sad honor" of being one of the main victims of the neo-inquisitors.

The so-called national security doctrine had extended to art and thought and everything which was not a commercial pastime (so much the better if it came from Hollywood), with an attack on the morality, customs, system of order and other delights of the supposed Western world.

At least this was the criterion of a sinister "approval organ" made up of clerical and ultra-right wing elements. But now things have changed, and this is evidenced by the audiences which are definitely ready to merge with the world, particularly the rich reality of Latin American and Caribbean culture.

Films are one of the favorite recreational activities of the urban middle class in Argentina, and currently, despite the development of television and the economic crisis (moving picture theater tickets are costly), thousands of men and women are filling the numerous halls premiering pictures in the city every week.

The tradition and enthusiasm for film spectacles, the new atmosphere of freedom of expression and serious interest in Latin American artistic performances --this then will be the environment in which the coming Cuban Film Week in Argentina will develop.

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CSO: 3248/789

## PINDLING, PLP CONTINUE AS FOCUS OF CRITICISM

### Resignation Rumors

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 14 Sep 84 p 1

[Text] HAS THE Prime Minister resigned? The Tribune's telephones were kept busy this morning with members of the public wanting to know if the rumour, which was floating around town today, was true.

The first telephone caller said that the announcement had been heard over an American radio station. He did not know which one. Later in the day another caller said he'd heard the announcement over Radio Bahamas. ZNS said it carried no such announcement. However, all the many callers had one thing in common. They said that they had heard that the resignation had taken place at 11 am today.

"It's the most ludicrous thing I've heard in 15 years," the Prime Minister's administrative assistant, Dr Elliston Rahming, said.

Although the Prime Minister appeared at the library green this morning for the ceremony to present America's exceptional service award to Sgt Osborne Ferguson for heroism, his name was not on the programme. Replying to the remarks by U.S. Ambassador Dr Lev Dobriansky was Minister of Home Affairs Clement Maynard.

### FNM Denunciation

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 15 Sep 84 p 1

[Article by Colin Higgins]

[Text] FREE National Movement speakers last night denounced the governing PLP's "Fantasy Island" communique, urged supporters to prepare for an early election and - noting that when the Royal Commission of Inquiry reports at the end of September "tongues will be loosed" - assured listeners that the FNM is "on the last lap" of becoming the government of the Bahamas.

In the R M Bailey auditorium - after rain drove listeners from the playing field - Party leader Kendal Isaacs, QC, told supporters they were apostles of

the FNM and they must take its message into "every corner" of New Providence and into every island in the Bahamas, "because that is the only way that we are going to win the next election."

Said Mr Isaacs: "We are not going to leave any stone unturned, we are not going to leave any area unvisited. We are going to visit every settlement on every island in the Bahamas."

Some 250 to 300 braved driving rain and vast "lakes" of water around the auditorium to hear speakers Arlington Butler, J Henry Boswick, Orville Turnquest, Cedric Parker, Arthur Foulkes, Janet Bostwick and leader Kendal Isaacs.

"The Progressive Liberal Party, which governs this country at this time, has lost every single right to continue to govern," Arlington Butler said to an enthusiastic crowd which through the evening shouted out comments of its own.

"And it wasn't us who said it you know," the speaker continued. "It was them who said it.

"This week they issued a press release shortly after coming from Fantasy Island, they issued a press release saying: 'We've failed to collect the garbage! We've failed to deal with drugs! We've failed to find employment! We've failed to stimulate the economy! We've failed to process peoples' applications for business on time!

"They said it! They said: 'We have failed!' the speaker told the cheering crowd.

"What they've been trying to tell you is: 'We've failed but, you see, give me another chance,'" Mr Butler continued as listeners cried out: "No!"

Orville Turnquest told listeners that when the Commission of Inquiry - which recently concluded investigations into allegations of Government protection of drug smugglers in the Bahamas - tenders its report: "Our tongues will be loosed and the shackles will come off.

"No longer will it be possible for us to be in contempt."

He told the gathering: "If Pindling doesn't resign before that, I'm sure when we're finished he'll be glad to go.

"So I just want to add my voice to assure all of you and to assure the entire country and indeed the entire western world, which is watching us, what the outcome of this will be.

"We are now on the last lap towards taking over the government of this country," Mr Turnquest said. "And we urge all of you not only to stand firm with us but to go out and speak to your brothers and sisters to make sure that they now see the need to support us as the next Government of this country because an early election is imminent, of that you can be sure."

Arthur Foulkes touched on ZNS: "Every bit of drivel that any minister of the Government says is broadcast on ZNS radio and television. Even when they are talking obvious foolishness.

"I heard tonight Livingstone Coakley predicting to the year 2,000," Mr Foulkes laughed.

"Livingstone Coakley predicting full health care by the year 2,000. Now here we are in hell in 1984!"

The speaker said his brother had just spent six or seven weeks in hospital, "and the nurse didn't have...sterilised gauze to clean his wound.

"They had to use toilet tissue!" he shouted. "That's what's happening in our own Princess Margaret Hospital and he got the nerve to talk about what health care gon' be like in the year 2,000."

Mr Foulkes said ZNS pays no attention to the Opposition. "We issued a statement a couple days ago in response to the statement they made after their so-called conclave on what Mr Butler called Fantasy Island, and ZNS did not even mention that the FNM made a statement."

Mrs Janet Bostwick promised that under the leadership of Mr Isaacs, "you will see proper planning in setting up any constituency, any subdivision, any new development.

"And there will be proper planning in getting rid of the slums which now exist all over this country."

She said that instead of looking at creating new Yellow Elders, the Government should concentrate on cleaning up the ghettos and slums presently existing.

"And they should do that with all the power and the money which is at their disposal but they don't have head enough for that.

"You see it's the same thing which happened when we told them they should not concentrate all of that money in the building of the big white elephant. They should instead have taken that money and developed the out islands."

"The time has come," Mrs Bostwick said, "for complete reconstruction in this country. And it can only come when we have had a complete changeover of the government."

CSO: 3298/002



# NEW ELECTORAL, BOUNDARIES COMMISSION TO BE FORMED

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 3 Sep 84 p 1

[Article by Cheryl Harewood]

[Text]

## A NEW Electoral and Boundaries Commission Act will come into force by December.

This was announced yesterday by Prime Minister, Tom Adams, during a Barbados Labour Party (BLP) excursion at River Bay, St. Lucy.

Mr. Adams said that December had been selected because Government wanted the commission to have a straight year to prepare a new voters' list.

He added that in this year's Estimates his Government had made provisions for \$36 000 to be put aside "as a start."

The Prime Minister said the only way the commission would not come about would be if a by-election is held.

The coming into being of the act would mean that elections in Barbados would be administered by an independent body, with no direction from Government.

The act was amended and passed by both Houses of Parliament in 1981, but was not proclaimed and never came into force.

A Democratic Labour Party (DLP) source said last night that that party had questioned and opposed an aspect of the bill which would make certain decisions of the commission not questionable in court. The party was agreeable, however, on principle to the setting up of the commission and had called for the implementation of the act from the elections in 1981.

The DLP raised the issue during the recent St. Peter by-election, and it was raised again by former president of the DLP, Mr. Branford Taitt, during the party's 29th annual conference on August 26.

Mr. Taitt had stressed the need for the electoral and boundaries commission and said that he had been "relentless" in his calls over the years to have it enforced.

CSO: 3298/003

# GOVERNMENT TO LEGISLATE CIVIL SERVANTS' WAGES; BWU OBJECTS

Adams Address to BLP

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 3 Sep 84 p 1

[Article by Jewel Brathwaite]

[Text] Those public officers whose bargaining bodies have not yet accepted Government's wages offer, were reminded yesterday that they were not obliged by law to accept the new wages contract.

Prime Minister Tom Adams outlined this yesterday in an address to supporters of his ruling Barbados Labour Party (BLP), who were celebrating the eight anniversary of the party's return to power.

Mr. Adams will tomorrow in Parliament introduce a measure to legislate the new wages offer for civil servants.

He said inflation was currently running at five per cent.

Adding that Government's offer to the unions was 15 per cent (including a two and a half per cent which the civil servants were currently receiving) in the first year and five per cent in the second.

Only one union — the National Union of Public Workers (NUPW) — has accepted the offer which was refused by the other unions — the Barbados Workers' Union, Barbados Union of Teachers and the Barbados Secondary Teachers' Union.

"In other words we offer workers enough for what they did not get in 1982", Mr. Adams said.

He questioned whether in the cir-

cumstances Government was to stop thousands of civil servants who had agreed to the proposals, and to go on negotiating with those who had not.

The Prime Minister said Government would do what the law allowed. They had made an offer and if those civil servants did not want it they were not obliged to take it. They can go on negotiating, he said.

The matter will be raised in Parliament tomorrow and salaries and back pay could be available in another two months time, Mr. Adams said.

He recalled that since 1973 there was only one occasion when unions agreed with Government on increased pay for public workers.

In giving a background to wages agreements Mr. Adams said in 1976 no union agreed to Government's offer; in 1978 all agreed, in 1980 the NUPW agreed and the BWU refused to accept the 42 per cent increases, in 1980 no union agreed, and in 1984 the NUPW agreed.

Mr. Adams promised that Government will be conducting a reclassification of the lowest paid public sector employees.

The celebrations were attended by a number of top BLP officials and supporters, and the Prime Minister said that while there had been ups and downs the last eight years could be looked back on with pride and prosperity.

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 5 Sep 84 p 3

[Text] The House of Assembly yesterday evening passed a Resolution that will allow the Government to legislate the salaries of public workers in the island.

The Resolution was passed at 5:40 p.m. after arguments for and against it had been put forward. It came in light of a 15 per cent wage hike Government offered to public workers and which has been accepted by the National Union of Public Workers (NUPW), but not the other unions in the island.

Speaking for the Resolution, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Tourism, Trade, Industry and Commerce, Mr. Bernard St. John, said that there was some direct "relationship between the amount of money Government can collect and pay out for wages," and he said that this was all part of expenditure.

Mr. St. John described Government's proposal to public workers as being "generously related to tax payers' ability to pay". He also suggested that the key to wage bargaining lay "in the number of people who can do the same job," but he disclosed that there is a manpower shortage at the middle and upper management level in the Barbados Civil Service.

The percentage increase Government has offered was reasonable when Government's service in other areas were taken into account, Mr. St. John added.

Noting that things were tight at this time, the Deputy Prime Minister said that some 6 000 civil servants had been laid off in Jamaica. He noted also that the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) was not in a position to lend money to many Governments for services, because some had not paid back the principal or interest on many loans. He named Barbados and Trinidad as exceptions to this.

Responding to Mr. St. John's disclosure that there

was a manpower shortage at the middle and upper management level in the civil service, MP for St. Philip North, Mr. Warwick Franklin, charged that something must then be wrong in the local service.

He said that in the past, Barbados had always benefited from a good civil service and salaries were not all the workers looked for in it, but if this was now the case, he added, "something is lacking somewhere in the atmosphere they have to work which is causing some frustration on the part of some Barbadians."

Mr. Franklin hoped that the appropriate ministry would look into the circumstances.

Meanwhile, Minister of Labour, Mr. Delisle Bradshaw, has suggested that there must be some "give and take" at the bargaining table. Speaking under the same salaries resolution, Mr. Bradshaw said that both parties involved in negotiations should show some willingness to compromise and if this was not there, "then there will be a problem," he added.

He said that Government had taken the initiative in the particular matter and a line would have to be drawn if negotiations continued to go on and on.

The Labour Minister declared that the situation could not go on where a union would accept an offer and another refused and so legislation had to be sought.

Stressing a need for a compromise, Mr. Bradshaw told the House: "You have to consider if asking too much is forcing people on the unemployment list," and he suggested that it should always be remembered that "a lot of people are in search of work."

He said that Government has to adjust itself to check the unemployment rate and "to bring in policies to reduce the rate."

#### Adams Address to House

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 5 Sep 84 p 12

[Text]

**PRIME MINISTER** and Minister of Finance, Tom Adams, has described the wage offer made by Government to public workers and accepted by the National Union of Public Workers (NUPW) as "generous".

In addition, he told the House of Assembly yesterday that the generosity of the settlement now being proposed was as great as any other government had shown previously.

Speaking on the passing of a resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General Amend-

ment No. 2) Order 1984, Item 12 on the Order Paper, the Prime Minister said the public officers would get a double increase in the cost of living index in the first year, while the increase would be in line with the index in the second.

Mr. Adams queried the other unions' motives for not accepting the offer because it was a generous one which any union should be advised to accept as in the case of the NUPW.

He said all efforts should be made for the public service to regain some of the losses suffered in the 1982 to 1984 period. He noted that the salary increase agreement was achieved in March, but public workers had to wait for six months to benefit.

The Prime Minister said this

was not good enough, and Government could not wait any longer on the other unions to accept the offer and must legislate.

However, he added, if any officer wanted to continue receiving the old salary, there is a clause which permits him to do so without any appropriate notice while further negotiations continue.

He also spoke of regrading and reclassifications within the public service.

Mr. Adams, in his speech to introduce the resolution, told the House that high wages meant pressure on employment and it was an inescapable fact of economics. There was no doubt that the country could regain stability through unemployment, but that the price was too high, he concluded.

#### BWU Statement

Bridgetown SUNDAY SUN in English 9 Sep 84 p 3

[Text]

**THE Barbados Workers' Union (BWU) has described Government's policy of giving public servants "a blanket wage increase" as "economic madness".**

In a statement issued yesterday, the union, commenting on Government's legislating of salaries for public servants, expressed its dissatisfaction over what it called "Government's action in denying the public workers a democratic settlement" in their salaries and wages negotiations.

The union said Government appeared to think that their introduction of a bill in Parliament to legislate the salaries was the end of the matter.

The union will be meeting at "Solidarity House" on Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. with the workers it represents in the public service.

The meeting will be addressed by BWU general secretary, Mr. Frank Walcott, and will deal with the Government's wages/salaries position 1984 to 1985; Government's offer for regradings in the Key Scale, the "Z" scale, the maintenance workers and records clerks at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the Child Care Board.

The union said that the Government's action in legislating the salaries will get the immediate attention of its executive council, and added that it was sure it would get the attention it merited.

CSO: 3298/003

DLP LEADER BARROW DISCUSSES CURRENT ISSUES, POLICIES

London THE CARIBBEAN & WEST INDIES CHRONICLE in English Aug/Sep 84 Barbados Supplement pp 8, 10

[Interview with President of the opposition Democratic Labour Party Errol Barrow by Jeremy Taylor: "Barrow: We Must Retrieve the Constitution From Washington"; date and place not specified]

[Text] Errol Barrow, now 64, led Barbados for 15 years before being defeated in the 1976 election, first as Premier and then as Prime Minister after steering the island into independence. Interviewed for the Chronicle by Jeremy Taylor, he criticises the Adams government for its capital spending and relations with the IMF, and paints a much gloomier picture of the economy than the government's.

*As a former Prime Minister of Barbados, how do you assess the record of the Barbados Labour Party government since 1976?*

The record has not been very impressive: they seem to lack any sort of basic philosophy. It has been more a question of appearances, propaganda and spending money, most of the time not very usefully, than carrying out any sort of overall political and social policy. The result is that the public debt has risen from approximately Bds\$200m in September 1976 to over \$800m, probably closer to \$1,000m, at the end of last year. The government's commitments to the IMF are strangling the economy, because it is not free to carry out policies beneficial to a developing country such as ours. They have to raise water rates and charge economic prices for essential services because that is the philosophy of the IMF. But at this state of our development, if the people are to sustain a reasonable standard of living, we cannot afford to be carrying out the same kind of unbridled capitalist philosophy as you can afford in a country like the United States, which has a completely different economic base from Barbados.

*The government argues that Barbados is coming out of a difficult recessionary period*

*relatively unscathed. Do you agree?*

I don't think that is true at all. If you mean we have not had riots or civil commotion, that is more due to the innate sense of discipline and conservatism of the Barbadian than to any good management. People in Barbados are really suffering: unemployment is at the highest level for 20 or 25 years, nearly 16 per cent. When we turned over the government in 1976, inflation was down to 2 per cent from 38 per cent after the 1974-75 oil crisis. Since then the figure has never really been below double digits — on a few occasions it came back to 9 per cent. Yet the crises the government has had to face in the last six or seven years are nothing to the crisis my government faced after the OPEC price rises in 1974 and 1975.

*Had the Democratic Labour Party been in power these last few years, how would it have handled the economy differently?*

In the first place, there is a lot of unnecessary capital expenditure, most of which is leaked overseas. For example, the new Central Bank building in Bridgetown, which is over \$60m. I spoke to one of the engineers and he told me that over 80 per cent of the cost would never reach Barbados or would go straight back to pay for raw materials, contractors' fees and so



on. A country that has a balance of payments problem should not be indulging in capital expenditure of that magnitude except on essential services like water. And there were many other things that could have been deferred.

There are also projects which for political reasons the government did not want to implement, like the cement plant which was projected by the DLP at \$45m and ended up costing over \$200m, and the Heywoods project which we initiated at \$30m and ended up at over \$70m because they kept postponing it. There are essential things like repairs to the runway at the airport, where they carried out no maintenance over the past eight years; but the \$50m by-pass road to link the industrial estates is completely unnecessary when the maintenance on existing roads is being neglected. Their priorities are all wrong.

*So how would you assess the present health of the economy?*

Manufacturing exports are shrinking because of the lack of a positive policy in CARICOM. Our hotel industry is undergoing a very difficult period because it has priced itself out of the market. There's nothing very special about Barbados although I'm a Barbadian — I certainly would not leave the United States, with Florida, the Bahamas and Bermuda on the doorstep, and travel down to Barbados just to get the sea and sand: I don't see anything exceptional about these facilities in Barbados. The prices that people have to pay to stay in the hotels are completely out of range with facilities which people can get in countries much closer to the US and Europe. We have a lot of competition and I would say at least 50 per cent of our hotels are on the verge of closing.

Now tourism is the greatest contributor to our Gross Domestic Product, much more than sugar or manufacturing. There have been leakages of hard currency through gambling, and this is exacerbating the balance of payments problem because there is no proper control of foreign exchange. All kinds of people come in here and take out foreign currency by the suitcase-full.

So I don't see much improvement in the payments situation in the near future under the present management. Sugar of course is an unmitigated disaster: that is not entirely due to mismanagement. The exchange rate is unfavourable, the fixed prices we earn from the EEC do not bring a favourable return, and our crops have not been up to expectation. Nor is (President Reagan's) Caribbean Basin Initiative a solution to the problems, because the areas where we would be glad to have assistance — like the garment industry — are specifically excluded.

*Supposing the DLP were to form a government at this point, what would your top priorities be?*

We are always able to form a government, I assure you: we have people on the back benches with ten years' experience as ministers. But the first thing we would have to do is bring back the constitution to Barbados from Washington, and I refer specifically to the headquarters of the IMF. We must get out of the tentacles of the IMF as soon as possible. That means we would have to look very carefully at our expenditure.

You see, the IMF is contradictory: when a country gets into balance of payments difficulties, the first thing they tell you is that you must have wage restraint. And then you mustn't have any subsidies for food or anything like that. And then they say, if things get too bad, you must devalue your currency, which means you have to pay more for your imports and get less for your exports. And on top of that you must have no restriction on your imports.

Now one of the first things that happened when the government went to the IMF was that, whereas before there were quotas on the importation of motor-cars and so on, these restrictions were immediately removed. Now if there is one thing that is likely to have a traumatic effect on your foreign reserves, it is the importation of motor vehicles — you only have to import 1,000 at \$10,000 each and you have a \$10m deficit. That is the kind of policy which the IMF imposes on developing countries. Instead of getting out of your problem, you get more and more deeply entrenched in the balance of payments bind. The IMF policies are ruthless and designed to assist countries like the US who are exporters. So the first thing we have to do is bring back the constitution from Washington; you can't have people breathing down your neck telling us what to do.

Therefore we must devise ways and means of increasing our foreign currency earnings and retaining them. For example, the IMF policies have meant that people in the industrial estates must pay much higher rents than before; the cost of electricity is also too high. It has driven a lot of people out of Barbados. So even if we have to subsidise industry and offer incentives to bring manufacturers back to Barbados, we have to tell the IMF we're sorry, we can't accept this. Then we have to diversify or recommence our diversification policy in agriculture and not depend so much on sugar cane, because I don't see any future in this island for sugar cane cultivation. And we must let down our buckets into the sea and develop a fairly strong fishing industry because the possi-



bilities there are unlimited.

*Mr Adams has had some criticism recently in connection with a higher level of military preparedness in the Eastern Caribbean and his enthusiasm for a regional security force. What is the DLP's policy on this?*

We are not in favour of militarisation because I don't think we will ever be in a position to challenge successfully anyone who wants to invade Barbados. I do not think that Barbados has any particular strategic advantage to any power in any conflict that might break out. I don't think we should spend money on armaments or making ourselves capable of defending the Caribbean region because I don't think our small countries should waste money on armaments anyhow.

*Does that mean that a DLP government would withdraw from any regional defence force that may be established?*

We'd have to examine it very, very carefully. As a token, there's nothing wrong with having a regional force if it is consultative, and to rationalise your equipment and avoid duplication of effort and so on. But it cannot be a realistic "force de frappe" or defence mechanism. I think we ought to concentrate more on our coastguard to prevent smuggling, particularly in the Windward and Leeward islands where there's a lot of it going on now, and to minimise the danger of the Eastern Caribbean being used for drug traffic. These are the important things. I do not think having a lot of soldiers marching about the place is going to do anything for the Caribbean.

*How much damage do you think has been done to CARICOM by the Grenada crisis?*

A lot of ill-feeling has been created unnecessarily and I hope it will blow over; but obviously the stand taken by Barbados and some of its neighbours has not met with universal approval, even in the CARICOM area. And I don't like people like the President of the United States speaking about a "CARICOM 2" just because the government of Trinidad and Tobago and the government of Guyana did not slavishly go along with his proposals. I think that is very dangerous.

*If Barbados had regular opinion polls, what would you expect them to show at*

*present about the relative popularity of the parties?*

At this point it would be very difficult to say. This time last year, a poll would have shown about 65-35 in favour of the opposition. A certain amount of euphoria has been created by heavy American propaganda and the local media, as a result of the Grenada invasion, and the popularity of the government rose as a result, probably by 10 per cent, so now it might be 55-45.

*Do you expect to lead the DLP into the next election?*

Yes, once I'm alive and in good health.

*Do you expect a premature election?*

Nobody can tell what Mr Adams or any other Prime Minister will do. If he called an election any time before the end of this year, he would be taking a very big gamble; it depends how much he wants to gamble. The longer he puts it off, the worse it's going to get for him. But he has a comfortable majority. He may call an election next year but I don't see him calling one this year.

*Are you satisfied with the electoral list?*

It is very inaccurate, and we are very concerned about this. There was an enumeration in 1981, which the Prime Minister said was not for electoral purposes but under the auspices of the Statistical Service Act; everybody, even people in hotels, was included, and we discovered that 13,600 persons on the list were not even semi-permanently resident in Barbados. Then an order was passed making that same list a register of electors. So we're very sceptical about any exercise which is going on.

*Might the DLP feel tempted to follow the example of the PNP in Jamaica, which boycotted last December's general election?*

It is hardly likely in Barbados. Jamaica is a special situation, and I think the only way the PNP could react was in the way they did. In Barbados there is no comparable electoral undertaking on the part of the government, and we do not think a boycott would be acceptable to the people of Barbados. We will have to find other ways of challenging and counteracting any defects in the list.

# NEW ECONOMIC STRATEGY CHANGES URGED, DISCUSSED

## Views of Manufacturers

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 3 Sep 84 p 1

[Text]

Barbadian manufacturers have warned that unless the Government adopts a new economic strategy, the economy will be plunged into deeper trouble with the island experiencing what they term "a real recession."

According to a spokesman for the manufacturers the Government needs to remove a range of levies, revue its water and land rates, and offer concessions on importation of raw materials to be used in the export business. They also want their debts rescheduled.

The water and land rates have been described as steep and as a deterrent in the drive to boost exports which the manufacturers regard as vital to their survival.

"We are not really feeling the impact of the international recession yet," the spokesman said. "Prices have been rising here and when you are into a recession, you tend to cut back on your prices. But come next year and if there is no change in the economic strategy you could be seeing a full fledged local recession."

The grim prediction came following a meeting at the Island Inn yesterday to discuss a strategy for survival in the face of a reduction of sales at a time of fierce competition overseas.

"What we need are incentives including subsidies on the importation of

raw materials," the spokesman said.

Manufacturers in places like Hong Kong have been able to make it because they receive incentives and subsidies from the Government, the spokesman said. "that's why we can't hope to compete with them," the spokesman explained. "that's why they can undersell us all along."

The manufacturers admit that several of them are deep in debt, a problem they say is worsened by sharply rising overheads. Several have been forced to lay off workers. According to the spokesman, that is why they are calling for a rescheduling of debts.

The Barbados economy which is heavily dependent on tourism sugar and manufacturing has been facing problems. Tourism arrivals are up, but Government officials have admitted that there has been no significant increase in tourist spending. Sugar prices have also remained relatively low and regional trade barriers have caused big headaches for local manufacturers'.

"A lot of Bajan businesses are just holding on," the spokesman said. "They refuse to lay off as many people as they should because they feel degraded when they loose a business. They consider that a cultural and a social let down."

## Adams' Views

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 3 Sep 84 p 1

[Text]

Government will hold a Cabinet retreat to be attended by some of the country's leading

economists to discuss options of economic recovery in the country. Prime Minister Tom

Adams who is also Minister of Finance told party supporters the economists would be drawn from the Central Bank and the University of the West Indies (UWI). He did not go into details.

This retreat along with other measures will be implemented to put new life into the Barbados economy which like that of most other Third World economies have been affected by the economic recession.

Mr. Adams spoke at the celebrations marking his Barbados Labour Party's (BLP) eighth anniversary of its return to power. The celebrations took place at River Bay, St. Lucy.

He said Government was planning to expand petroleum production, offshore services to take advantage of changed conditions resulting from the revocation of the tax treaty with the United States, and put emphasis

on furniture and offering data services to overseas firms.

In addition construction will be stimulated with new projects expected to start up and a new thrust will be put in housing.

Mr. Adams said that Government will be making more funds available to the housing sector so that by 1985 more units will be built than at any other time in the history of the country.

In looking at the impact of the world economic climate, the Prime Minister said it took about 18 months for the recession to hit Barbados at its fullest.

"I think we have reached the stage where recession is now reaching the country at its height and recovery in the United States has not yet reached Barbados," Mr. Adams said.

He added that the country was now paying

the price of its stability referring to the gradual increase in unemployment now running at 17.8 per cent.

Mr. Adams said it hurt his heart to read the latest unemployment figures.

He said the Government will be addressing other problems which could not be dealt with so easily by the initiatives, among them trade with regional countries.

He said the problems with Trinidad started long before the matters pertaining to Grenada noting that in the last two years Trinidad had lost half its foreign reserves.

Mr. Adams said the Trinidad Government was taking steps which as an economist he could only describe as sensible.

We wished that Trinidad would prosper again since a prosperous Trinidad meant a prosperous Barbados.

#### St John on Structural Change

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 11 Sep 84 p 1

[Text]

Deputy Prime Minister Bernard St. John has outlined a number of changes local manufacturers must adopt in view of the major structural changes taking place in the world economy.

Mr. St. John, who is also Minister of Trade and Industry, made the point in a message marking the 20th anniversary of the Barbados Manufacturers Association (BMA), now being observed in Barbados.

Mr. St. John said the anniversary was being celebrated at a time when major structural changes were taking place in the world economy and when countries particularly Barbados and other regional states, were hardpressed to make necessary adjustments to

these changes.

"And responses to such changes will have to take place in areas such as our production structures, lines of products, quality control, pricing, packaging and marketing as well as delivery."

He believed the BMA had a vital role to play in helping the manufacturing sector in the country to provide the effective responses to the changes taking place, and which were impacting on national and regional economies.

"Indeed, I see this as the major challenge of the BMA in the years to come," Mr. St. John said.

This apart Mr. St. John said the BMA can look back over the past two decades of its activities with a reasonable degree of satisfaction.

## St John on Trade Expansion

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 11 Sep 84 p 1

[Text] BARBADOS needs an effective strategy for the promotion of industry and local manufacturers must look to extra-regional markets.

This was said by Barbados' Minister of Trade, Mr. Bernard St. John, as he addressed executives of the Barbados Industrial Development Corporation (BIDC) yesterday at their annual investment promotion review and planning meeting at the Barbados Hilton hotel.

Mr. St. John said that the signs in the industrialised countries at the end of 1983, and so far this year, pointed to slow recovery.

"We have also observed that Barbados is at a stage where its industrial sector is undergoing structural change. The structural change must be understood and managed, in order to reap early benefits from the international recovery."

This structural change, the Trade Minister said, may result from domestic or international factors, as trans-national corporations seek to exploit the advantages of off-shore locations, thus introducing new products and technology into the host country.

Mr. St. John said this trend of redistribution of industry from developed countries, via off-shore manufacturing, tends to be limited during periods of recession, as has been experienced in Barbados.

"This experience points to the need for an effective promotional strategy capable of inducing more high-tech industries especially in light of the imminent recovery to set up off-shore manufacturing plants in Barbados."

The Trade Minister added that it was therefore urgent that local manufacturers look to extra-regional markets. He said that small open economies like Barbados need to adopt outward looking policies, with strong emphasis on exports, as both the international recession, and the CARICOM trading problems have so clearly demonstrated.

"The differences between the limited size of the domestic, including Caricom market, and the minimum viable scale of operations for some forms of manufacturing can restrict the range of manufacturing options except extra-regional markets can be found.

"In addition to meeting the need to earn hard currency, and to facilitate transfer of technology, some of the needs of external markets will have to be catered to," Mr. St. John said.

The Trade Minister said that the manufacturing sector was therefore placing new demands on the service sector to provide the technical support services required by its own manufacturing sector, and to capture the opportunities for providing such services to other countries.

"In this respect the knowledge-based industries, research, computer and communications technology, banking and insurance are areas needing urgent attention in development and promotion," Mr. St. John said.



BRIEFS

THIRD AUGUST FIRE--Barbados' capital Bridgetown recorded its third major fire for this month as the top floor of a two-storey building belonging to Gardiner Austin on Lower Broad Street was gutted early last night. The origin of the fire is unknown and no estimate of the damage could be obtained up to late last night. The fire has put five businesses out of operation until temporary locations can be found. The businesses affected are Rainbow Boutique and Gardiner Austin which were hardest hit, Hutchinson Graphics, the City branch of the Barbados External Telecommunication (formerly Cable and Wireless), and United Insurance. On August 14 a fire on Marhill Street hit five businesses-- a large furniture company, a printery, an amusement arcade, bar and restaurant, an insurance company and an optical company. That fire occurred less than 24 hours after a blaze had extensively damaged a Baxters Road supermarket. The other fire for the month was on August 22 on Roebuck Street. However, Commercial House, one of the major properties on Roebuck Street was saved from destruction through the quick action of firemen. [Excerpts] [Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 31 AUG 84 p 1]

WEAPONS LEGISLATION--A Bill which will prevent people from carrying knives among other offensive weapons in public places was passed by the House of Assembly yesterday. Dubbed the Control of Offensive Weapon Act, 1984, the Bill was supported by both Government and Opposition Parliamentarians. However, the Opposition had suggested that some amendment be done to it, because as it stands, anybody could be arrested on suspicion of having such a weapon in his/her possession. The Bill was introduced by Attorney General Mr. Louis Tull, who on its second reading said that some course of action to stamp out the number of violent crimes reported in the island, had to be agreed on. He said that Government found it necessary to have a separate Act to deal with the crime "phenomenon in Barbados" and he noted that there were numerous incidents of violent crimes on the island. The piece of legislation would give the police power to arrest a person without a warrant on suspicion of having an offensive weapon in his or her possession. [Text] [Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 5 Sep 84 p 3]

SEWERAGE PLANS--THE first phase of a coastal sewerage project for Barbados, to be constructed on the island's south coast, will cost an estimated \$40.5 million. Revealing this yesterday was Mr. Arthur Archer, project coordinator of the Greater Bridgetown, South and West Coasts Sewerage Project. The section of the south coast project from Chelsea Road to the Maxwell Coast Road, he

said, would cost \$30 million; the section from Chelsea Road to Jemmotts Lane would cost \$1-1/2 million and the section embracing residential areas on Highway 7 would cost \$4.5 million. Another \$4.5 million would be expended on the section from Oistin to Enterprise Drive. The south coast phase of the project, Mr. Archer said, was being given priority, because that area was the most problematic in terms of sewage disposal. While work on this project would be carried out in two phases, it would be up to Government, he said, to decide which phase would be worked on first. According to a 1983 count, Mr. Archer said, about 90 000 persons would be involved in the over-all project-- 26 522 on the south coast; 22 462 on the west coast and 42 955 in Greater Bridgetown. [Excerpt] [Bridgetown THE NATION in English 11 Sep 84 p 1]

CSO: 3298/004



## REPORT OF ELECTIONS COMMISSION BRINGS VARIED REACTIONS

### Details of Report

Belize City BELIZE SUNDAY TIMES in English 12 Aug 84 pp 1, 12

[Text] The Commission appointed by the Minister of Home Affairs on August 17, 1982, to review the electoral system submitted its report to the Minister on July 31, 1984. Its members were: Reverend Lloyd J. Lopez, Chairman; Reverend S. Onesimo Pott and Mr S.A.J. Adolphus.

Its terms of reference were to ensure the following principles: (a) one man, one vote, (b) that all qualified persons have the full opportunity to register and to vote and (c) that no unqualified person is allowed to register and/or to vote.

The Commission made six recommendations. The first recommendation is "that members of the Elections and Boundaries Commission be appointed by the Governor General on the advice of the political parties represented in the House of Representatives and that the Chief Elections Officer be appointed by the Governor General upon the advice of the Elections and Boundaries Commission."

The other five recommendations are:

--serious efforts be made to remove the confused understanding of the law which requires the registering officer to determine the age and nationality of an applicant.

--registering officers to desist demanding unnecessary visits of applicants to registering offices.

more intensive and aggressive periodic inspection of the operational sections of the electoral system.

- the removal of unclaimed registration cards to the central

office in Belize City from all other offices.

- the inspection of the finger prior to voting.

The report assumed that "illegal aliens had registered and pro-

bably had the full opportunity to vote", because as the report argues, in the absence of a certificate of birth or other evidence, there was confused interpretation of "other evidence."

In recommending that Registering Officers desist in demanding unnecessary visits of applicants to registering offices, the report emphasizes the need for periodic inspection.

"In support of this we quote from an eminent writer on organization and management: - "Executive control must provide itself with the means of evaluating the quality

of work. It is the function of inspection to see that the quality of performance is at all times in agreement with the standards of the organization.

"Inspection does not create performance. It embraces preventative measures which may be invoked to prevent failure and raise the probability of success. Quality control is the function of ensuring that personnel, material and performance conform to prescribed standards.

"Inspection is the examination and evaluation of procedure, performance and the implements of performance measured by the organi-

zational standards. Independent periodic inspection of methods and performance is indispensable to a high degree of efficiency in the objectives of the organization." The Report further states: "After examination of the Electoral System in great detail, this Commission found that certain fundamental issues were affecting the smoothening of and confidence in the system. Therefore we limited our report to these fundamental issues." The appointment of this Commission to examine the electoral system arose out of allegations of fraudulent manipulations of the system. If such allegations are true, some if not all of these manipulations should be identifiable. This Commission discovered some areas in the implementation of the law which it would rather categorize as cumbersome, burdensome and irregular. Whenever and Wherever these appear, the system is harmfully criticised and confidence in the system weakens." The Commission ends its report saying: "It might be said and quite truly so, that the polls determine the way of life of a people; remove it and the law of the jungle takes over. The hope then is that the Commission's efforts will have contributed to our democratic way of life."

## Minister's Reaction

Belize City BELIZE SUNDAY TIMES in English 12 Aug 84 p 3

[Text]

The Honourable Minister of Home Affairs has thanked the Commission for their report whose terms of reference were to review the electoral system.

In his letter of thanks, dated August 6, 1984 the Minister went on to make the following comments on the report.

"It is unfortunate that in the course of your deliberations you felt obliged to go outside the carefully agreed terms of reference and to make comments about the appointment of the Elections and Boundaries Commission and its officers, an issue which had been thoroughly debated when the Representation of the People Ordinance was passed in the National Assembly and on which sound principles of constitutional practice were applied. These comments are all the more unfortunate in the light of the recent experience in the island of Jamaica where politicising the electoral system has resulted in elections which are less than commendatory - the likes of which we hope that Belize will never emulate.

"These comments are even more unfortunate since the Constitution of Belize - the supreme law of the land - at section 88 in re-constituting the Elections and Boundaries Commission provides at sub-section(2) "the members of the Commission shall be a Chairman and four other persons appointed by the Governor General.

"I am, however, very interested in more details of some of your other findings for therein may lie an opportunity to improve the electoral system. I refer first to your comment about Regulation 8(2) in which you seem critical of the subjective approach by which registering officers are required to be satisfied on the nationality and age of an applicant for registration. If we were to remove this discretion, it would be necessary for the law to prescribe exactly the 'quantum' of proof which is acceptable. Bearing in mind the circumstances specifically applicable to Belize, it would be helpful if you would indicate the appropriate objective test which could supplant the discretion now contemplated by the law.

"I am particularly dismayed at your state-

ment: "In fact our investigation revealed that illegal aliens had registered and probably had the full opportunity to vote." I will be grateful for as much particulars of so serious a statement in order to ascertain how this could have happened, where it happened, how many were so registered and what steps are necessary to prevent its recurrence, for it may turn out upon further investigations that merely changing the test from a subjective to an objective is insufficient to prevent a repetition.

"So grave does the legislature view this abuse of our electoral system that it has provided a fine of one thousand dollars or imprisonment for one year.

"Your statement that qualified persons were denied the full opportunity to register and/or to vote resulting from several factors i.e. delay in the registering process, distances from registering offices, slow communications and suspicion of political appointees are also serious charges about which particulars would be very helpful. I note as well that the only recommendations for the solution of these problems seem to be periodic inspection. From this I conclude that you have in mind an increase of periodic inspection and your specific recommendation in this regard would also prove helpful.

"Your other criticism about partially completed registration arising out of the cumbersome nature of the registration process is another matter upon which your further assistance is sought, for while the registration procedures are admittedly not simple, the purpose of each step is, to ensure that only qualified voters are registered with the advantage to the voter that once registered, registration would be unnecessary for each election as is customary in many systems. I wonder, however, whether the process would be simplified by the removal of incomplete applications to the headquarters of the Commission which would necessitate in many cases a journey of many miles, should the applicant wish subsequently to complete registration. In this regard, I wonder whether the dangers to which you point outweigh the inconvenience, particularly in the light of the fact that each registration card requires the photo-

graph of the holder both on the card and on the register itself.

Finally, I wish to assure you that it is the contemplation of the law that a Presiding Officer shall examine the finger of a person applying to vote prior to his voting and that in fact this is a practice which has been observed and over which representatives of competing political parties exercised vigilant scrutiny."

#### National Assembly Discussion

Belize City THE REPORTER in English 12 Aug 84 p 6

[Text]

The report of the Electoral Reform Commission, which has been two years in the making, appears to have sparked comments from both sides of the National Assembly this week.

Home Affairs Minister Mr. V.H. Courtenay in a statement thanked the commission for its work but signalled his disapproval by asking for more particulars concerning "alleged alien registration" and for details of reports of "persons discouraged from registering."

The Minister's comments and general handling of the Commission's report drew a sharp reaction from the Leader of the Opposition in the House, Mr. Curl Thompson who described Mr.

Courtenay's comment as "hasty", and not in the spirit of the bi-partisan effort which had given birth to the electoral reform commission in the first place.

Details of the Commission's report have not been made public, and all that is known so far is that it is a short seven-page document.

The Commission was appointed on August 17, 1982 with the following terms of reference:

To ensure the following:

a. One man one vote,

b. That all qualified persons is allowed to register and or to vote.

c. That no unqualified person is allowed to register and or to vote.

Opposition leader Mr. Curl Thompson sharply criticized the Courtenay statement



to the press and radio for giving the impression that the Electoral Reform Commission was the government's idea, taken at the government's initiative.

"That is not so", Mr. Thompson said. "It was at the opposition insistence, that the Commission was set up for the specific purpose of correcting anomalies and irregularities that could lead to election fraud.

"In 1981, prior to independence", Mr. Thompson said, "the opposition United Democratic Party agreed to bi-partisan discussions with the government to deal with constitutional matters and matters concerning election reform. As a result of these discussions the naming of the Commission was a bi-partisan effort, and it was agreed between government and opposition, that the commission would try to preserve the bi-partisan nature of the work by making its report available to the government and the opposition at the same time.

"It was also agreed", Mr. Thompson said, that there would be bi-partisan discussions of the Commission's recommendations before any public comments would be made.

"Today" Mr. Thompson said, "both the Prime Minister and his Minister of Home Affairs are denying that the Belize Government agreed to a bi-partisan approach. I find it disturbing that the Minister for Home Affairs Mr. Courtenay should take it upon himself, immediately after the report was handed to him, to make a statement criticizing the work of the Commission. I regard this as most unfortunate and not in the spirit of our bi-partisan effort and arrangement.

"I have accordingly written to the P.M., expressing my party's view that the Courtenay action in criticizing the Commission's work was hasty.

A copy of the Commission's report has since been handed over to the Leader of the Opposition and the United Democratic Party will now have an opportunity of studying the recommendations contained in the report.

The general public and the free press of Belize are also anxiously awaiting the report with its recommendations for electoral reform.

## UDP Blasts at PUP

Belize City THE REPORTER in English 26 Aug 84 pp 1, 12

[Excerpts]

Belize City,  
Oct. 23:

THE OPPOSITION  
United Democratic  
Party in a sharply  
worded statement  
today accused the  
ruling People's  
United Party of  
intolerable bad faith  
because of a  
government-inspired  
attack on the report  
of the government -  
appointment Electoral  
Review Commission.

"It is one more  
instance of their  
arrogance and  
disregard for the  
democratic process",  
the statement said.

What angered the  
UDP is a letter  
which the Attorney  
General and Minister  
of Home Affairs, Mr.  
V.H. Courtenay sent  
to the Electoral  
Review Commission  
one day after  
receiving the report.  
The letter criticized  
the report, telling  
the three man review  
panel that it had  
gone beyond its  
authority as stated  
in its terms of  
reference.

The recommendation  
which the Minister

objected to was one  
which urged that the  
Election & Boundaries  
Commission should be  
appointed by the  
Governor General on  
the advice of the  
political parties  
represented in the  
House, and that the  
Chief Election Officer  
be appointed by the  
Governor General  
upon the advice of  
the Elections and  
Boundaries Commis-  
sion.

The UDP statement  
today described the  
Minister's criticism of  
the Commission's  
work as a violation of  
its agreement made  
in 1982 (to preserve  
the bi-partisan  
nature of the  
electoral review) and  
one more instance of  
their arrogance and  
disregard for the  
democratic process.

"So used have  
they become to their  
rubber stamp  
committees and  
boards, it said, that  
"they are ill  
prepared to deal  
with a citizens'  
committee carrying  
out the task  
assigned to it with  
integrity and  
impartiality".

## PUP 'Panic'

Belize City THE BEACON in English 1 Sep 84 pp 1, 3

[Text]

ALL the speculation and rumours are now over. Radio Belize announced this week that the Price government is going ahead with plans to redefine the electoral division boundaries countrywide, which might mean that the legislative seats could be increased from 18 to as much as 25 seats.

Belmopan, concerned even before December's Belize City Council elections about the shift of mass public support to the United Democratic Party (UDP), went into a panic when the UDP swept those elections with a 9-0 unopposed majority, showing massive gains in all electoral divisions in the country's largest municipality. These included a whooping 465 votes majority in the Prime Minister's Freetown Division, representing a gain of more than 600 votes since the 1979 general elections.

Since the results of the City Council elections became history, the PUP ministers have pushed the panic button.

For the last six months, there has been persistent rumours from reliable sources, that the PUPs were bent on a haphazard and senseless restructuring of the electoral division boundaries. Their hope is to isolate cer-

tain strong UDP areas, while beefing up PUP "constituencies" with block votes from other areas. The restructuring exercise reportedly includes plans to attach the whole of Ladyville to the Prime Minister's Freetown Division, to include the two distant and well populated offshore cayes (Caye Caulker and Ambergris Caye) in Musa's Fort George Division, and the dumping of the whole of Eve Street into unconnected Pickstock.

The ultimate "decision" will, according to the election laws (see Government Release on Page 9), belong to the 5-member Elections and Boundaries Commission, headed by Home Guard Commandant Tom Sabido.

The Commission has been hand-picked by the government and naturally contains a majority of PUP "influences." And this is what the government ministers are counting on - that the Commission will rubber-stamp the government's plan, despite the fact that the law (Section 19(2) of the Representation of the People Ordinance) provides as follows. "... in fixing the boundaries of an electoral division the ... Commission shall have regard to the transport and other facilities of

*the division, and to its physical features."*

The Assembly will have to be dissolved within the next three months, so it seems surprising that the plan to redefine the boundaries is late. A job of this magnitude should take the Commission at least three months, unless it proves true that the plan hatched up by the politicians is about to be rubber-stamped in record time.

#### Government Release

Belize City THE BEACON in English 1 Sep 84 p 9

[Text] The Governor General, Dame Minita Gordon acting on the advice of the Minister responsible for Elections and under section 18 of the Representation of the People's Ordinance has called on the Elections and Boundaries Commission to act as a Delimitations Commission for the purpose of dividing Belize into new electoral divisions.

The Governor General's direction to the Elections and Boundaries Commission addressed to Mr. Tom Sabido, the Commission's Chairman, requires the Commission to act in conformity with section 90 of the Belize Constitution.

It is noted that under the Constitution, the Elections and Boundaries Commission, after considering the population of Belize, shall make proposals to the National Assembly for dividing Belize into electoral divisions of equal number of voters as far as possible. The Constitution stipulates that each division shall have not less than two thousand and not more than three thousand voters.

The total number of electoral divisions throughout the country must not be less than 18 and not be more than 29 in number.

CSO: 3298/1148

## PUP OFFICIALS SPEAK AT MESOPOTAMIA PARTY ELECTIONS

Belize City BELIZE SUNDAY TIMES in English 2 Sep 84 pp 1, 26

[Text] Mr Ralph Fonseca, Chairman of the Belize Electricity Board, has been elected Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Mesopotamia Division, in Belize City.

Mr Fonseca's election came at a Convention held Wednesday night Aug. 29 at Independence Hall.

The former Chairman of the Mesopotamia Committee, Senator C L B Rogers, introduced and endorsed Mr Fonseca as his successor.

Senator Rogers was elected Deputy Chairman of the Committee. Mr Berley Kerr was elected Secretary, and Mrs Hilda Beckles is Treasurer. Another 10 people were also named to work in the various sections of the Committee.

The elections were conducted by the National Chairman of the People's United Party, Mr Louis Sylvestre.

The main speakers were Minister of Home and Foreign Affairs Mr Vernon Courtenay, and Minister of Natural Resources, Mr Florencio Marin.

Minister Courtenay chose the theme "Better must come with the People's United Party." He outlined some of the major achievements of the PUP government, including the construction of the new capital city of Belmopan, and the achievement of independence.

Minister Courtenay also singled out Senator Rogers, praising him for his dedication and loyalty to the government in its task to develop the nation.

Like Mr Courtenay, Minister Marin pointed at some of the greater achievements of the PUP administration. He praised the land reform programme which is working so fine in Belize while it was so difficult to implement in other countries.

On the economic situation of the country, Mr Marin made reference to the position of other countries in the region. "I have just returned from visiting Argentina and Brazil, and in both countries the currencies are being devalued every day" he stated. "That is not the case in Belize today," he noted.



For his part, the new Chairman of Mesopotamia Division, Mr Fonseca, praised the PUP government and renewed his commitment to work harder to achieve more for Belize and its people.

Mr Fonseca singled out Prime Minister Price as a leader of vision who has taken Belize a long way on the road of development.

Chairman Fonseca also announced that his Committee is already embarked on a major community project. He announced that the Committee has obtained a lease for the use of the old Minga's Club on East Collet Canal. The building will serve a dual purpose: it will be a recreation centre managed by the youth arm of Mesopotamia on evenings and weekends, and during the day it will serve as a day care centre for the children of working mothers.

CSO: 3298/1149

GOVERNMENT HAPPY AT OUTCOME OF TALKS WITH IMF TEAM

Belize City DISWEEK in English 7 Sep 84 pp 1, 11

[Text] Belize and the International Monetary Fund, the I.M.F. have concluded a series of intense discussions. At the end of such talks this week it was concluded that there is indeed no need for the devaluation of the Belize dollar due to Belize's appropriate rate of exchange.

According to the I.M.F. representative, drastic adjustments and harsh austerity measures are not seen as necessary because of the timely action taken by the Belizean government - including recent revenue measures and an early approach to the I.M.F. which, together avert a deep financial crisis.

The Minister of Economic Development, Mr. Said Musa emerged from the discussions "confident" as he put it, "that a good, workable arrangement has been arrived at. "Government is happy with the outcome of the talks," he told a press conference in Belize earlier this week.

Heading the I.M.F. five man team was Mr. Carl Lingren of Finland. Also part of that team was Mr. Robert Joyce who is an Executive Director of the I.M.F.

The team negotiating for Belize was headed by Minister Said Musa and included the Governor General of the Central Bank Mr. R.C. Swift, Mr. Telford Vernon, Deputy Financial Secretary, Mr Joseph Waight, Director of the Office of Budget and Management, Mr. Ray Fuller, Director of the Office of Economic Development and Mr Ralph Fonseca, Chief Executive Officer and Co-Chairman of the Belize Electricity Board.

CSO: 3298/1149

# UNCERTAINTY SURROUNDS RUMORED HUGE PETROLEUM FIND

## Government Denial

Belize City DISWEEK in English 17 Aug 84 p 1

[Text]

**A** Miami newspaper of Thursday August 16th has reportedly carried an article to the effect that oil has been found in huge quantities in Belize.

Government has moved quickly to deny such a story.

A G.I.S. release on the same day says that no drilling is in fact taking place at the moment. G.I.S. states however that the Marathon Petroleum Company of Houston Texas is due to begin drilling in the Toledo District, offshore Punta Gorda. The release adds that recent seismic surveys in the area indicate a high possibility of finding oil in commercial quantities.

A Miami Herald Spokesman has outrightly denied that the Herald of Thursday carried such story. Although we have not been able to confirm the article with other Miami newspapers, the Petroleum Office of the Ministry of Natural Resources has denied any oil find.

Although we are living in a vacuum when it comes to the free flow of information, oil find stories have become regular beats like the devaluation of the Belize dollar and the withdrawal of British Troops or even an invasion by Guatemala. While these add spice to our day, they also serve to raise unnecessary false alarms.

## Loss of Test Records

Belize City THE REPORTER in English 26 / 84 p 6

[Excerpt]

A cute little dark-skinned hooker this week threw away half a million dollars worth of documents and a chunk of Belize's oil future with it when she dumped the contents of a stolen briefcase into a Belize City south-side canal.

City Police have arrested

.....  
who admitted that after she searched the briefcase and found that it

contained no money, she got rid of the evidence by dumping the papers in the canal. The papers contained all the records of the elaborate seismograph tests which had tracked with pin-point accuracy all promising oil bearing formations on the sea bed in the deep waters off Toledo and which had given Marathon Oil Exploration Company great cause for optimism.

## Geological Evidence

Belize City THE BEACON in English 1 Sep 84 p 5

[Text]

Multinational oil companies, using newly developed sensing equipment, have located huge oil and gas structures off the coast of Belize. According to geologists, the deposits appear to be a southward extension of the extremely prolific oil fields already tapped off the southeast coast of Mexico.

Belize, formerly British Honduras, is a tiny Central American country northeast of Guatemala and south of the eastern tip of Mexico.

Geological evidence is that:

\*The newly spotted hy-

drocarbon structures are both very large in area and highly saturated, resembling those of the Miocene sands of the Burghan oil field of Kuwait, which are the largest yet discovered on this globe. The Kuwait field contains more than 100 billion barrels of extractable oil. The thickness of the Belize oil-bearing sedimentary formations - about 27,000 feet - is matched only in Kuwait and under the 38,000-square-mile area off the southern coast of West Falkland (Malvinas) Island.

\*The hydrocarbon struct-

ures lie at a deeper level than the producing oil fields farther north and west.

\*The formations off Belize where the large hydrocarbon accumulations have been sensed are a slowly dipping continuation of those off the state of Chiapas, Mexico, where oil wells are the gusher type, sometimes flowing as much as 30,000 to 40,000 barrels a day. That is matched only at the richest oil fields in the Persian Gulf area and on the North Slope of Alaska.

\*The projection is that the cost of an oil well off Belize will be somewhat greater than farther north, which varies from \$1 million per well off Louisiana to \$1.5 to \$2 million off the southern and eastern coasts of Mexico. But the cost is

nowhere near the \$40 million to \$50 million-per-hole price in the Beaufort Sea off the coast of Alaska.

The oil from offshore Belize will likely be only marginally more expensive to produce than offshore oil deposits currently being tapped by Mexico. The climate and other conditions are the same as off the coast of Mexico, and drilling equipment is readily available.

An authoritative evaluation of this new oil find has appeared in the "Petroleum Economist" of London, one of the most respected publications in the field. But the Establishment media in the United States prefers to follow the "we're-running-out-of-oil" theme - despite evidence to the contrary.

#### Additional Details

Belize City THE REPORTER in English 2 Sep 84 p 1

[Excerpts] A REPORT in the Miami News of August 13 quotes sources which say that the offshore oil-bearing rock formation discovered in the waters of Toledo appear to be a southward extension of the prolific fields already tapped off the southeast coast of Mexico.

The survey, commissioned by the Marathon Oil Company, used for the first time highly sophisticated sensing equipment to make this discovery confirming earlier evidence by satellite pictures that there are commercially exploitable petroleum deposits under that there body of water.

The Belize Government has been playing the exciting new information in low key. "No one has discovered any oil" the Belmopan Petroleum Office was careful to point out. But Marathon is racing against time to sink two 10,000 foot wells, and reports a "high probability" of finding oil and gas.

Meanwhile reports that a senior engineering official had lost his briefcase containing important documents related to the seismic survey have been given a new twist. Inside reports say the briefcase contained not documents, but lots of U.S. money which had been intended as pay-off to local government officials.



MUSA DISPUTED OVER MATTER OF STUDENTS IN CUBA

Belize City THE REPORTER in English 26 Aug 84 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text] A WHILE BACK, in March this year, the Minister of Education and Sports, Mr. Said Musa told the House of Representatives and the nation that the PUP administration had nothing to do with promotion of Cuban scholarships among the youth of Belize.

This statement was effectively refuted last week by one of the students back in Belize for holiday, who told one newspaper interviewer that he had picked up his plane ticket from the Ministry of Education in Belize.

Mr. Musa's denial of education links with the Cubans came in response to a written question from the Leader of the Opposition in the House, Mr. Curl Thompson. On March 30, 1984 Mr. Thompson asked the following written question. He had the right to expect a written answer, but Mr. Musa chose to answer verbally on the House floor.

Question: Will the Minister of Education and Sports please inform this House of the number of Belizean students who have been given scholarships or bursaries to study in Cuba. Will he state how many Belizean students are now studying in Cuba and whether he knows of any plan to continue sending Belizean students to Cuba for special education.

In reply Mr. Musa said he knew there were "some" Belizeans pursuing higher education in Cuba, but the Government of Belize had nothing to do with this. He said he did not know how many Belizean students had taken the opportunity to broaden their education in Cuba. Mr. Musa also took the opportunity to state that he saw nothing wrong with Belizeans travelling to Cuba to broaden their education.

The points we note here are:

1. That the Ministry of Education was the "drop" where at least one student picked up plane tickets for Cuba.

2. The Ministry of Education may have been the place where a dozen other students also got their plane tickets earlier this year.

3. It is impossible for this kind of collaboration with the Cubans to take place without the knowledge and active co-operation of the Minister of Education, Mr. Musa.

What are the honest, God-fearing citizens of our country to make of all this?

Mr. Musa is far outside the mainstream of political opinion when he says he sees nothing wrong with Belizean students going to Cuba to study. Most Belizeans find it worrisome that any Christian family would submit its children to the perils of a communist education. But they become resentful when their elected government starts actively to promote closer education and culture ties with Communist Cuba.

All this is deeply disturbing. But it is intolerable that a Minister of Government should try to deceive the House of Representatives and the nation by making a declaration which he knew to be untrue. This is hypocrisy, and it cannot be condoned or tolerated in highly placed elected officials.

President Richard Nixon was forced out of office for lying to the American people, and many members of Parliament in Britain have had to resign for this same kind of mendacity.

Lying in public office is a loathesome thing, and the punishment for it is deservedly severe. It is time that our men and women in public office learn this lesson. Voters will not forgive an unrepentant liar.

GOVERNMENT ACCUSED OF HOLDING BACK ON CBI AID

Belize City THE BEACON in English 25 Aug 84 pp 1, 10

[Text]

Belmopan is sitting on a U.S. \$5 million (Bze \$10 million) egg-nest, made available to Belize Government through President Ronald Reagan's Caribbean Basin Initiative.

The money has been deposited with the Belize Central Bank more than a year ago, and is supposed to be used for making loans to firms and businesses involved in projects in the production sector for the export market only. The money cannot be used for local consumption, and needy industries such as tourism, cattle rearing and agriculture will not derive any benefits from this egg-nest.

The loan capital was negotiated by the Belize and U.S. governments, without any reference to the business community or the local banks.

According to our source, one of the main clauses in the agreement calls for the money to be apportioned between the four major banks. The

Central Bank must pay 2% interest to the U.S. agency, but will charge the private banks as much as 7%. The banks will be allowed to charge borrowers at the prime bank rate, presently standing at 11%.

But this is not the way that banks do business. They are already angry over being kept out of the initial negotiations, and will not agree to any format that will allow the Central Bank to make a big profit for doing nothing. Furthermore, banks will only be allowed to make loans secured by real property.

Of course, Belmopan is not above "borrowing" a part of this tidy sum for purposes other than that for which it is provided, especially in this general election year. The deadline for the country to begin making use of the money expires next month. All this has caused some concern among U.S. agencies, to whom the money must be returned if the deadline cannot

be met.

Because Belize does not have a whole lot of "export oriented" industries, the government will find it difficult to find takers, despite half-hearted attempts to lure investors through radio advertisement.

Eventually, a substantial portion of this money will be used to help Belmopan pay the initial instalments due on its recent purchase of 72% of the shares in the Belize Sugar Industries, and for loans to cane farmers willing to invest in this very risky business. This is the only avenue still open to beat the fast approaching deadline.

CSO: 3298/1150

**BANK ROBBERY LOOT RECOVERED; PAPER IMPLICATES MEXICO**

**Corozal Border Find**

Belize City THE BEACON in English 25 Aug 84 p 1

[Text] COROZAL TOWN: On Wednesday Corozal Police announced the recovery of \$220,000, a portion of the loot taken when the Barclays Bank branch here was held up by three armed bandits on Monday last.

The full amount taken by the robbers has never been disclosed by the bank, but speculation is that the sum recovered may be only a fraction of the money stolen. The bank vaults were reported cleaned out.

The recovery was made in the Mexican border city of Chetumal, Quintana Roo with the aid of Mexican Police, but no arrest has yet been disclosed. The Police are obviously hoping that the arrest of one bandit will eventually lead to apprehension of his partners, and recovery of more of the stolen money.

**Further Recovery, Arrest**

Belize City THE BEACON in English 1 Sep 84 p 1

[Text] THE recovery of money stolen following the armed robbery of the Barclay's Bank Corozal Branch three weeks ago has now passed the one million dollar mark.

On Wednesday Police arrested Ovilzo Benetiz, a 25 year old Honduran national, and recovered \$900,000.

**Mexican Links to Gang**

Belize City AMANDALA in English 31 Aug 84 p 1

[Text] BELIZE CITY, Fri. Aug. 31--This morning's issue of the BEACON claimed that the recovery of money from the August 14 Corozal Barclays Bank robbery has now "passed the one million dollar mark." The newspaper did not say recovery into whose hands.



Only Bze \$232,000 has crossed the border back from Chetumal, Mexico, where all three bank robbers have been picked up, according to our sources.

And only one of the three has been charged in Belize. That is 25 year old Arcilo Anuncio Benitez, a Honduran national, who tendered a sensational plea of guilty to the bank robbery charge on Tuesday afternoon in the Corozal Town Magistrate's Court.

Our sources say that it was British troops who crossed into Chetumal late last week and brought back Benitez into Belize, and our sources say the Mexicans don't want to give up the other two because Mexican officials want the bread for themselves.

The involvement of British troops may be partially a result of the fact that it is two eminently British financial institutions--Barclays and Lloyd's--which have been pillaged by the gang of three aliens, but there is more to this gang of three than meets the eye.

To begin with, they spoke in politically revolutionary terms during the robbery and this would have tended to draw the special attention of British intelligence here, the British begin, after all, surrogates for the anti-communist Americans.

Our sources say they have reason to believe this gang is Belmopan based, that it is loosely organized in the northern districts, and that its leadership is substantially Mexican. Our sources believe, additionally, that the gang benefits from Belizean intelligence, and that it is this same gang which tried to collect US \$300,000. ransom after abducting Pio Urbina, Jr. on June 30 this year.

More law abiding aliens in the north, meanwhile, told our reporters that they are receiving no assistance from the Belize government and they want to know what becomes of the refugee money Belmopan receives from international agencies. The law abiding aliens say the Valley of Peace (mile 44, Western Highway) is only a show case project used to distract international refugee officials when they visit Belize.

CSO: 3298/1150

PHONY U.S. BIRTH CERTIFICATES, ID'S FOUND IN RAID

Belize City DISWEEK in English 31 Aug 84 pp 1, 11

[Text] Apparently before Wednesday 29 August U.S. birth certificates could be obtained from Racecourse Street in Belize City. The contact was allegedly 35 year old Edward Bishop, Jr. at #45.

But then on Wednesday in response to a tip-off reportedly from the U.S. Embassy, Belize City Police armed with a search warrant raided Bishop's house. They found a quantity of U.S. birth certificates, some completed, some blank and U.S.I.D. cards. Bishop was charged with forgery, uttering and claiming upon a forged document.

The I.D. cards found carried Edward Bishop's picture with a different name.

If Bishop is indeed found guilty of the offence of forgery it would appear that not only could foreigners obtain Belizean birth certificates as it recently came to light, but Belizeans could also get hold of U.S. birth certificates.

Rumour has it that these U.S. certificates were obtainable from this man for some time.

In the United States, presentation of a certified birth certificate is proof of citizenship which is all a person needs to reside and work legally in that country.

When police raided #45 not only did they discover these documents, but also they came across a 30-30 rifle and 36 rounds of ammunition. Bishop along with his two brothers and two females--all occupants of the house--were charged with the possession of unlicensed firearms and ammunition.

Bishop, 36 year old Errol Bishop, and 32 year old Joep Bishop, 32 year old Myrtle Robertson and 20 year old Cynthia Arnold are now out on bail. Joel Bishop will now appear in Court as a Defendant instead as of witness for the Prosecution. In July Bishop was Chief witness in his case against Adrian Roe of Belize City accused of causing him grievous harm. The case will return to Magistrate Court later this year.

CSO: 3298/1150

DEFENSE FORCE PRAISED FOR ROLE IN JOINT EXERCISE

Belize City THE REPORTER in English 19 Aug 84 p 1

[Text]

**BRIGADIER ANTHONY POLLARD**, Officer Commanding the British Forces in Belize, has had words of praise for the officers and men of the Belize Defence Force for the part they played in the recent joint military exercises in the Toledo District.

"The Belize Defence Force showed stamina and great good humour throughout", the British Brigadier said. "Their good performance indicates a marked improvement in their knowledge and skills, he said.

"The presence of so many members of the BDF (500) on the exercise made a notable contribution to its success."

"I am also grateful to the people of Punta Gorda and Toledo District for the hospitality, understanding and tolerance they showed once again during such an

important exercise. It is necessary for British Forces and Belizean Military to have the opportunity to exercise in Toledo District, and the cheerfulness with which this necessity has been greeted by the people of the district makes our job not only easier, but more enjoyable."

The five day exercises involved some 500 members of the BDF regular and volunteer troops and a jungle march of some 50 miles. They took part in several successful practice attacks and built a number of very effective defensive positions.

The newly formed Air Wing of the BDF also played its part in the exercises along with the Maritime Wing of the BDF which used its new patrol boats to help transport men and equipment back to Belize.

STATISTICAL OFFICE RELEASES FIGURES ON POPULATION

Belize City DISWEEK in English 10 Aug 84 pp 4, 9

[Text]

**T**he distribution of Belize's population by sex and district is changing as the number of people continues to increase.

The Government Information Service in collaboration with the Statistical Office of the Central Planning Unit recently released the latest statistics on Belize.

Calculations by disweek of the population statistics show that the population in Belize has increased by 37.8 thousand in the last 13 years - from 119,900 in 1970 to approximately 157,700 in 1983. The percentage of males in the population is slowly increasing from 50.1% in 1970 to 50.6% in 1983.

Corozal District has been the fastest growing district. In 1970, 12.9% of Belize's population lived in Corozal District. In 1983, 16.5% resided in that District. Cayo

and Orange Walk districts have also been growing. The percentage living in the Cayo District increased from 13.3% to 16.3%; Orange Walk District's percentage increased

less dramatically, from 14.2% in 1970 to 15.9% in 1983.

At the same time, the percentage of people living in Belize District has been decreasing from 41.6% in 1970 to 33.1% in 1983. The percentage in Stann Creek has also decreased, from 10.8% to 9.8%.

An encouraging statistic for Belize is the infant mortality rate which has been reduced significantly since 1970. In that year, 51.2 babies died for every 1000 live births. The estimated 1983 rate is 21.3 per thousand which would be a very slight increase from 1982 but a considerable decrease since 1970 and part of a continuing decreasing trend. The death rate has also decreased from

# BELIZE IN FIGURES

	1970	1980	1981r	1982r	1983p
<b>1. Population and Vital Statistics</b>					
<b>Total Population (thousand)</b>	119.9	145.4	149.4	153.4	157.7
<b>Districts:</b>					
Belize	49.9	50.8	51.0	51.8	52.3
Cayo	16.0	22.8	23.8	24.8	25.8
Orange Walk	17.0	22.9	23.8	24.3	25.1
Corozal	15.5	22.9	24.2	25.0	26.1
Toledo	9.0	11.8	12.1	12.5	12.9
Stann Creek	13.0	14.2	14.5	15.0	15.5
<b>Sex:</b>					
Male	60.1	73.6	75.7	77.7	79.9
Female	59.8	71.8	73.7	75.7	77.8
<b>Percentage of Population</b>					
<b>Age 14 years and under</b>	49.3	46.1	46.1	46.0	46.0
Between 15 and 64 years	46.4	49.2	49.2	49.3	48.5
65 years and over	4.3	4.7	4.7	4.7	5.5
<b>Population Density (per square mile)</b>	13.5	16.4	16.8	17.3	17.8
<b>Birth Rate (per 1000 population)</b>	37.1	43.1	38.9	38.4	38.6
<b>Death Rate (per 1000 population)</b>	6.8	4.9	4.7	4.0	4.2
<b>Infant Mortality Rate (per 1000 live births)</b>	51.2	30.2	27.4	20.9	21.3
<b>Marriages (number)</b>	733	907	957	957	954
<b>Households (thousand)</b>	23.1	28.1	28.5	29.0	30.0
<b>Persons per Household</b>	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.3	5.2

Footnotes:—

p — provisional      r — revised

6.8 per 1000 in 1970 to 4.2 per 1000.

In education, the number of schools in the country has increased slightly from 1980. In that same time period, the number of primary school teachers has increased by ap-

proximately 4% and the number of secondary teachers by 9%. Secondary school teachers have also increased in the number with university degrees - in 1980 63 had such a degree, by 1983 93 had obtained that degree.



'SIGNIFICANT' INCREASE SCORED IN 1983-84 CITRUS CROP

Belize City BELIZE SUNDAY TIMES in English 19 Aug 84 pp 1, A

[Text]

The Citrus Industry has reported a significant production increase in this year's crop as compared to the figures for the previous year.

Harvesting of the 1983-84 crop ended in the Stann Creek District in mid-July.

Figures quoted by the Government Information Service show that more than 1.4 million boxes of citrus were harvested and processed at the end of the season. This is 400,000 boxes more than the 1 million boxes of oranges and grapefruits harvested in the 1982-83 crop.

The highest citrus harvest in the industry was the 1.6 million boxes produced in the bumper crop of 1979-80.

Of the total yield of 1,436,077 boxes of citrus from the season just ended, 311,669 boxes (80 lbs. each) were grapefruits and the rest, 1,124,408 boxes (90 lbs. each) were oranges.

The final per box price of fruits to growers under the Citrus Price Formula will be decided on Sept. 15.

Growers are now getting \$8.00 per box of oranges, but the minimum guaranteed price on second payment will be \$9.00 per box from both the Citrus Company of Belize and Belize Food Products Ltd.

For grapefruits, the growers get \$2.00 per 80-lb. box.

The price of citrus is expected to hold steady now that the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) has made provisions for special treatment to citrus, and other products, exported to the United States by Belize and other countries covered by the programme.

The major part of Belize's citrus is sold in the United States.

The increase in citrus production is certainly welcome now that our depressed economy is showing some signs of recovery.

BRIEFS

ASSAULT ON PRICE--CITY POLICE are saying they don't know about an assault on the Prime Minister of Belize, Mr. George Price, which reliable sources say took place last Tuesday morning in Belmopan. These reports say a man who has not been identified by name, approached the Prime Minister as he sat in his Belmopan office and threatened him. The Prime Minister became frightened and made "a big noise", an alarm which brought his security guards, who were in a nearby room running. [Text] [Belize City THE REPORTER in English 26 Aug 84 p 1]

REGISTRATION OF ALIENS--MORE than eight thousand of the estimated 16,000 illegal aliens now in Belize have registered to accept the general amnesty offered by the government during the three month amnesty period. The amnesty ended on July 31, but all the registration information have not been turned in, and the figure of 8,558 is not final. A spokesman for the government says it is expected that some 10,000 illegal aliens will apply for and receive the amnesty by the time the exercise is over. [Text] [Belize City THE REPORTER in English 19 Aug 84 p 1]

NEW BRITISH ENVOY--A new British High Commissioner to Belize has been named. The British Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary has appointed Mr. John Michael Crosby as British High Commissioner to Belize. He will succeed Mr. Francis Trew who has been the British High Commissioner here since the attainment of Independence. Mr. Trew's new posting has not yet been announced. [Text] [Belize City DISWEEK in English 17 Aug 84 p 2]

CSO: 3298/1151

## POLITICAL PARTIES' GROWTH, DECLINE SINCE 1982 ANALYZED

Sao Paulo ISTO E in Portuguese 5 Sep 84 pp 28, 29

[Text] The president of PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] had more than enough reason to be happy last week, upon perusing the IBOPE/ISTO E/Commercial Gazette/Bandeirantes Television Network poll (ISTO E, No 401), which revealed the obvious, overwhelming preference that the opposition candidate for the presidency of the republic, Tancredo Neves, currently enjoys among the electorate. Ulysses also discovered that PMDB not only grew considerably in comparison with its status during the elections held in 1982, but also is solidly entrenched among the various segments of Brazilian society. "The poll confirms that the people's approval of PMDB is continuing on the upward trend started in 1974, attesting to the broad universe of the party, which has succeeded in winning the confidence of all social strata," boasted the deputy last Wednesday afternoon, after having personally checked each one of the figures disclosed by IBOPE.

There are good reasons for Ulysses' euphoria. According to the discoveries made by the poll, which queried 1,600 individuals in the seven leading metropolitan regions of the country, if a new election were held today, PMDB would receive no less than 40.8 percent of the electorate's votes (compared with 35.2 percent that it won 2 years ago), equally distributed among men, women and youth in the 18-24 year age group, or middle-aged men and women, and among all social classes. Together with PMDB, albeit many points lower, the Workers Party gained, expanding its electorate from 8.8 percent in 1982 to 9.7 percent; while PDS [Social Democratic Party], PDT [Democratic Workers Party] and PTB [Brazilian Labor Party] fell headlong down the slope of the indexes (see table). But it is not only this, as was observed by another avid reader of the figures gleaned by IBOPE, Deputy Ayrton Soares, the PT leader in the Chamber. He claims that the poll also provides the most complete outline made in recent months of the Brazilian voter's profile and his relations with the political parties, offering information which, according to Ulysses Guimaraes, "prompts one to meditate."

Material for meditation, which will help the parties to prepare for the elections set for 1986, is unquestionably not lacking; particularly when the poll reveals which problems the voters expect their parties to be confronted with. For example, the majority of the PDS (28.5 percent) and PTB (29.6 percent)

voters think that the price freeze on items of prime necessity is the first economic measure that the future government should adopt, also agreeing that the first political measure should be to combat crime (24.6 and 25.4 percent, respectively). The PMDB, PDT and PT voters want reestablishment of direct elections for the president of the republic as the first political measure; while the Constituent body, one of the priorities in the PMDB program, appears only in fifth place in the party voters' preference. Breaking the agreements with the IMF is the most important economic measure to be adopted by the government that will take office in March of next year, according to all the opposition voters, except those of PDT who, from an economic standpoint, agree with those of PDS and PMDB.

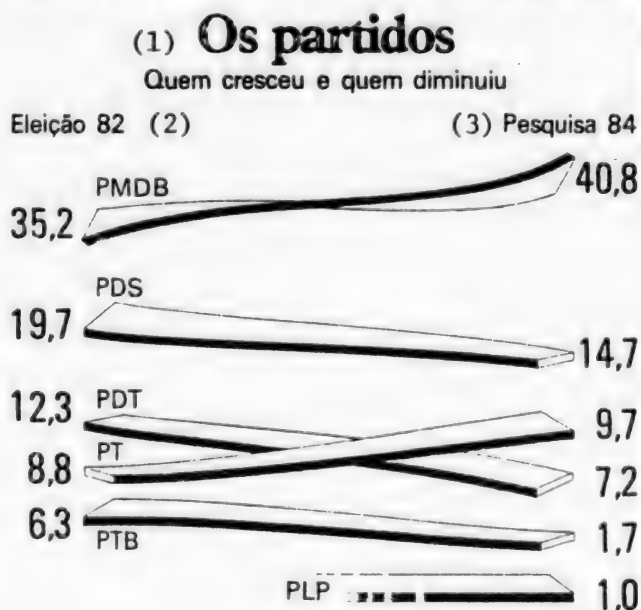
Obviously, those figures not only serve as a good indicator for the parties, with a view toward their future electoral test in 1986, but also help the politicians to position themselves for the presidential succession. For example, Ayrton Soares thinks that the growth of his party, particularly among the youth (the PT electorate is the most typically young, in the 18-24 year age group (16.1 percent), whereas all the rest have voters distributed evenly among all age groups) is due to its intransigent statements on behalf of direct elections and against the Electoral College. But it is Ayrton himself who cautions: "The party does not grow from a mere disputation, but rather as it gains a consistent activity. When PT emerges from underground, and when it gives up the ghetto policy, it only stands to gain." It is a message: with the imminence of Maluf's victory in the Electoral College by a slight difference, PT will not refuse its eight votes to the PMDB candidate, as it has announced up until now. Now, according to the PTB leader in the Chamber, Celso Pecanha, despite the drop in the party's indexes in comparison with 1982, "PTB has a correct line. One need only read our statements to realize that we never flatter the ruling power." He does not think that the agreements with the government have been the cause of the party's collapse, as all the other politicians and the evidence point out.

Senator Roberto Saturnino Braga (PDT-RJ) has received his party's poor showing in the poll with great humility: "We must identify the possible causes and adopt the necessary measures to retrieve the prestige that has been lost." But the Rio de Janeiro governor, Leonel Brizola, as is his style, chose to express his bravado against the indexes: "We always hide the grease under the cover" (for the uninitiated, the expression means "hiding the ploy"). It is a natural reaction from politicians when they find themselves at a disadvantage in any opinion poll. For example, Senator Augusto Franco considered the PDS penetration of the poorest classes to be "consistent," but when confronted with the loss of prestige by the party, he preferred to remark disdainfully: "That poll is random; and it could have experienced atypical influences in a restricted universe."

One item of information offered by the poll surprised even the experienced Ulysses Guimaraes: Although it has always attempted to typify itself as a party of the poor, most of PMDB's electoral strength lies precisely in class A (48.3 percent of its voters), and the least in class E (29.7 percent), wherein, moreover, lies the greatest strength of its major adversary, PDS,

which will seek nearly half of its votes therein (46 percent, as compared with only 13.8 percent from class A). "Social justice is a constant in the party's politico-administrative action, and so that result is consistent," remarked the sensible president of PDS, Augusto Franco. "I am greatly surprised by that information," reacted Ulysses, "it is perhaps explained by the poverty index which is of such a nature that it even hampers the indictment of those mainly responsible for the catastrophic situation of that group of the electorate." The results failed to surprise only the party's most leftist groups, such as Deputy Francisco Pinto (PMDB-BA) or the Pernambucan Roberto Freire, member of the National Committee for Legalization of the Brazilian Communist Party, who agree that: "PMDB now appears as a party capable of restoring the tactical alliance between capital and labor," as was remarked by the Bahian Francisco Pinto who, in a possible party reshuffling set for after the election and swearing in of the future president of the republic, will certainly not be in the PMDB that emerged from the poll.

The identification of the voters according to the social class to which they belong also affords some observations that are usually not accepted by certain party leaders, such as Luis Inacio Lula da Silva. For example, PT is a party that has backing in the middle class (12.2 percent of its voters are located in class C); an index which declines to 0.0 percent in class E; despite its more radical statements and a program with clearcut class connotations. The situation of PDT is identical, with its rank and file situated in class C (9.1 percent of its electorate); quite different from PTB, the only one of the unentitled labor parties whose major strength is gathered in class E: 16.1 percent of the Brazilian Labor Party's voters are in that social class.



Key to Table:

1. The parties, those which grew and those which declined

2. 1982 election

3. 1984 poll

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NEW FRENCH ENVOY TO PROMOTE RENEWED COOPERATION

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 14 Sep 84 p 2

[Text] Paris--The new French ambassador to Brazil, Bernard Dorin, formerly in charge of the Latin American Department at Quai D'Orsay, will assume his duties in Brasilia within a few days, with the intention of fostering a restoration of the cooperation between the two countries in various fields (economic, cultural or scientific), despite the awareness of the limitations caused by the financial problems that both are facing. On Wednesday, France's new ambassador to Brazil took part in a round-table discussion at the Maison de L'Amerique Latine, in Paris, at which the main problems associated with the bilateral relations were taken up.

In the cultural realm, the French expressed great hopes for the execution of the French-Brazilian Project, which is due to be carried out during 1986 and 1987. Involving the Ministries of Culture and Foreign Affairs, the project calls for a Paris-Rio exhibition, of the type of the recent Paris-New York one, to be set up at the George Pompidou Cultural Center. Several other projects are being studied, including the establishment of the "Museum of Man" in Belo Horizonte; for which purpose the secretary of culture of the Minas government, Jose Aparecido de Oliveira, is scheduled to visit the French capital in October.

The preparations for President Mitterrand's visit to Brazil, which has already been confirmed for the middle of next year (just after the solution to the Brazilian succession problem), will perhaps be the new ambassador's first and main task. On that occasion, countless projects still in the contact phase will be announced. For the present, the French are underscoring the efforts being expended with regard to Brazil. They cite the new Radio France International broadcasts in Portuguese beamed at Brazil, by means of an increase in the power of the transmitter located in Guiana. They also mention the purchase of Brazilian soap-operas from TV Globo for showing in France; but they admit the presence of difficulties in marketing the programs produced by French TV in Brazil. It has been explained that the Brazilian market is very closed to foreign countries, attempting to develop its own products.

This new interest has also been confirmed by the increase in the colony itself, because there are currently almost 13,000 French living in Brazil; unlike

Argentina, where 18,000 French used to reside, and now there are only 8,000. Up until a few years ago, the French community was concentrated in Rio de Janeiro, but now an increase in the number of French is being observed in Sao Paulo, where there are approximately 6,000. However, economic measures are causing the forthcoming close of the French Consulate in Porto Alegre, in spite of appeals from Rio Grande do Sul residents.

During the round-table discussion on Wednesday, the anthropologist, Mme Dreyfus Gamelon, notified Ambassador Bernard Dorin of the need for the scientific community associated with Brazil to be heard at the time that projects are established, even in the industrial area. She recalled the recent incident involving the French firm Elf Aquitaine, with the tribe of Satere-Maue Indians, whose land in the Amazon River region was invaded and explosives were abandoned. Fortunately, there were negotiations, costing the company's treasury nearly 300 million francs. If the scientific area had been heeded, the incident could have been avoided and the image of the company's trademark would not have been damaged.

Criticism was also made of the lack of better coordination with the French Alliance school system scattered throughout Brazil, whose contribution to increased rapprochement between French and Brazilians could be better used. In the artistic area, the appropriations are allocated for the so-called demonstrations of prestige, which reach only the most privileged classes in Brazil.

On the political level, the renewal of cooperation will be marked by President Francois Mitterrand's trip; because the rise of the Socialists was followed by a certain amount of freezing in the relations between the two countries. The French-Brazilian grand commission set up by the previous government to meet every 6 months since 1981 has been deactivated; calling for alternate half-yearly visits by the foreign ministers and presidential visits every 2 years. President Ernesto Geisel visited France in 1976 and, 2 years later, President Giscard D'Estaing visited Brazil. In 1980 it was Figueiredo's turn to visit Paris, but after that these periodic visits were stopped; and the current president, Francois Mitterrand, has avoided setting a date to travel to Brazil, something which should finally occur after the determination of the Brazilian presidential succession.

During recent months, however, the visits by Jack Lang, minister of culture, and Claude Cheysson, minister of external relations, have indicated the French Government's political desire to come closer to Brazil. In August, Minister Saraiva Guerreiro himself was in Paris, meeting with his French colleague. Several demonstrations by French leaders toward Brazilian individuals have also attested to this present good will. The composers, Chico Buarque de Hollanda and Dorival Caymmi, received personally from the minister of culture the Medal of Arts and Letters; while the author, Jorge Amado, received the Legion of Honor, France's highest award, from President Mitterrand himself. The Ministry of Culture has also supported several artistic demonstrations associated mainly with Brazilian music and films, including the recent Festival of Music and Film of Brazil, held in the city of Nice.

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# DECLINE IN TRADE WITH ISRAEL EXPECTED TO CONTINUE

Sao Paulo VISA0 in Portuguese 17 Sep 84 pp 65, 67

[Text] Brazil's trade with Israel will decline during the next 2 years, according to a prediction made by the consul for economic affairs, Abraam Devir. He claims that in 1984 there will be a 50 percent cut in Brazil's exports to that country, with the receipts standing at between \$15 and \$20 million, in contrast to \$30 million last year. Imports, in turn, should remain at last year's level, that is, at about \$10 million.

The explanation for the reduction in the bilateral trade between the two countries is summarized in the economic policy enacted by the government to surmount the period of recession that the country is undergoing, based on the curtailment of imports. Only exporting seems to interest the economic authorities, without considering the fact that importing is also necessary for maintaining bilateral trade itself.

No country is satisfied to maintain deficits in the trade balance. This holds true of Israel. At present, the country has funds available for importing \$100 million worth of goods from Brazil, especially primary products; however, in exchange, it wants to export products of sectors wherein there is a high technology involved in their manufacturing (chemical, energy, farm implements and agriculture). For example, in 1982 Israel was the country which imported the most meat, from a worldwide standpoint, spending \$30 million, and that was just in Brazil. During that year Brazil posted exports of \$40 million to Israel and imports of \$22 million.

This balance in bilateral trade is vital to both countries. In this connection, according to Roberto Costa de Abreu Sodre who, for the second consecutive year, will be chairman of the Brazilian-Israeli Chamber of Commerce and Industry, attempts are being made to increase the bilateral trade between Brazil and Israel to some extent. According to Sodre, there are prospects for Brazil to export alcohol to the Israelis, although they have been developing a plan for its manufacture in that country, and to import all the agricultural technology that Israel has developed to date, for application in the Northeast, the part of Brazil worst hit by the drought.

Businessman Max Perlman, one of the founders of the entity, who recently received the title of "Brazilian-Israeli Personality of 1983," also favors better use of

the potential that both countries have in the foreign trade area. According to Perlman, Brazil has high technology in the energy field, particularly in the manufacture of alcohol, and could become a future supplier of that energy source to the Israelis. In return, the businessman notes, Brazil could import Israeli technology to solve the drought problem in the Northeast. It is important to point out that the State of Israel was a desert region with semi-arid terrain, which forced the country to develop techniques aimed at making use of its soil potential.

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## 11.73-PERCENT RISE IN PRODUCTION OF MAJOR CROPS REPORTED

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 14 Sep 84 p 21

[Text] Despite the pessimism that has been rife in Brazilian agriculture during recent years, it is necessary to indicate recovery when it begins appearing. Although it cannot be denied that Brazil has been encountering major obstacles in exceeding the famous record of 50 million tons of grain, the results of the 1983-84 harvest indicate that production underwent a considerable rise of approximately 11.73 percent involving the crops that are most significant economically, namely, rice, beans, corn, soybeans and wheat.

The most recent survey of reports made by IBGE [Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics] is dated July of this year, and hence includes figures that are probably quite close to those which will represent the final results of the harvest. When the analysis is broken down, a sizable increase is discovered in rice production (+ 16.1 percent over the previous crop), beans (+ 67.3 percent for the two national harvests) and corn (+ 13.3 percent). It is worthwhile recalling that the 1982-83 harvest was harmed considerably by weather instability, in addition to reflecting the already known problems involving agricultural policy. One product the supply of which proved disappointing is soybeans, showing an increase of only 6.6 percent. Wheat repeated the usual fluctuations, showing a decline of 23.1 percent; which certainly explains some of the government's hesitant attitude toward the need for eliminating the subsidies to the milling sector.

The recovery in the harvest that has just been gathered does not conceal the continued problems affecting the staple food supply. In the case of rice, for example, Brazil produced exactly the same supply in 1977, attaining a major change in 1980, with a production of 9.7 million tons. Beans, which are ceasing to be a low-yield consumer product, now show a supply of nearly 3 million tons, and are just beginning to recover as a result of specific incentives in the past harvest (minimal compensatory prices and greater rural insurance coverage). This indicates success in terms of agricultural policy, which could be extended to the other crops of prime necessity.

What has not shown a satisfactory performance is the corn supply, which certainly lacks incentives on a par with the importance that it represents for livestock production. The same might be said of wheat, the production of which



has been declining since 1979, without any more appropriate guideline having been adopted by the government.

In any event, the results from this latest harvest show that, despite all the difficulties, certain crops have fostered a rather moderate degree of capital formation. The producers are using those funds to replace equipment and to form stocks of certain input; and they will certainly be resorting to bank financing to a lesser extent. The government's budget appropriation itself to pay for preferential interest (3 percent per year and total monetary correction) is limited, and it will have to be for the marketing phase.

The recent measures ordered by the National Monetary Council will make the funds in the free segment of the financial market even less attractive. Although the investment and financing banks operate on the rural credit market, they will have but little share in the agricultural demand, perhaps being limited to financing certain equipment for large producers. Agroindustry is perhaps the most significant client, but only when the supply of subsidized funds becomes markedly meager. So, what can be expected for the coming harvest is a judicious use of funds by the producers, a requisite that is unquestionably essential for a higher degree of professionalism. A repetition of the 1983-84 harvest will be a slight result, from a historical standpoint; however, it will represent a consolidation of the position accrued this year. This is progress that should not be discredited.

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## PLANS FOR ANTARCTIC INCLUDE AIRSTRIP, EXPANSION

### CIRM Secretary's Statement

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 19 Sep 84 p 9

[Text] Yesterday, the secretary of the Interministerial Commission for Ocean Resources (CIRM), Adm Valbert Medeiros de Figueiredo, said that the organ responsible for the execution of the Brazilian Antarctic program has already started studying a plan for the construction of an airstrip for planes in Antarctica. This airstrip would facilitate the logistical backup provided by Brazilian Air Force aircraft operating at the Chilean base of Marsh.

The construction would not have a high cost, such as that for airports, and Comdr Fernando Araujo, who was scientific coordinator of the last expedition, in 1983-84, has already examined various airstrips built in the region.

Admiral Valbert said that, despite the fact that this is not a priority project, at present, the airstrip for airplanes may be included in the country's Antarctic planning. The CIRM secretary emphasized "the low costs of the Antarctic program, particularly considering the international standing that Brazil has already attained during the short period of time in which it has participated officially in the Antarctic research."

### Station Is Expanded

Valbert also announced the approval of the plan to expand the Brazilian station in Antarctica. The station, which currently has only eight modules, will receive 22 more for housing and three for fuel storage.

The project was approved by the coordinator-minister of CIRM, who is the minister of Navy, Adm Alfredo Karam. Upon its expansion, further research can be done; and for this reason, the programing of the expedition that is to begin on 15 November (and will be the longest, lasting 5 months) calls for the execution of three new types of scientific work on the Antarctic continent.

Valbert Medeiros de Figueiredo said that, "One of the research areas will be that relating to 'krill,' a crustacean with more protein than Brazilian shrimp, which may be exploited for Brazil in the future." The admiral confirmed the

participation of the University of Sao Paulo's oceanographic vessel, "Professor Besnard," in the forthcoming Brazilian expedition, as well as that of USP researchers and those from other university establishments in the country.

According to Admiral Valbert, the Brazilian scientists will conduct research both at the station and aboard the oceanographic support vessel, "Barao de Teffe," which will participate in the country's third official expedition. Valbert also stressed the international cooperation of Argentina, Chile and Poland.

#### Antarctic Research Committee Affiliation

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 15 Sep 84 p 9

[Text] Brazil is due to be admitted as a member of the Scientific Committee for Antarctic Research, during the next meeting of the international institution, which will open on 25 September in the city of Bremerhaven, in the Federal Republic of Germany, heightening its projection in the restricted club of Antarctic countries. This report was issued yesterday by the secretary of the Interministerial Commission for Ocean Resources, Adm Valbert Medeiros de Figueiredo.

He also disclosed the names of the members who will serve on the Brazilian delegation at that international meeting: The head will be Antonio Rocha Campos, of the University of Sao Paulo; with the participation of the researchers Pierre Kauffman, Clovis Teixeira, and Fernando Araujo, who is also a naval officer, and adviser Luiz Felipe de Macedo Soares.

With its access to the Scientific Committee for Antarctic Research, Brazil will receive greater international backing to engage in its research on the Antarctic continent and greater facilities with the expansion of its station.

One of the investigations of interest to the committee, with headquarters in London, which will now have Brazilian participation in Antarctica, relates to the survey of the continent's marine resources, particularly krill, a crustacean similar to shrimp, but with more protein.

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## BRIEFS

USSR INTEREST IN AIRCRAFT--"The Soviet Union may purchase aircraft from EMBRAER [Brazilian Aeronautics Company]," was the prediction made by Vladislav I. Kurenkov, chief of the Soviet commercial delegation in Brazil; claiming that the first step in that direction would be the arrival in Sao Paulo on Saturday, for flight demonstrations, of the AN-32 airplane, which can be used for freight and passenger transport. The aircraft will remain in Brazil for 4 days, later leaving for exhibitions in other South American countries. Six nations are on the agenda: Brazil, Argentina, Venezuela, Colombia, Peru and Bolivia. Kurenkov admitted his expectations: "We expect many good commercial results. We want permanent contacts among the aviation specialists of the Soviet Union and Brazil to exchange experience and technology. That is a first contact that can help to start major cooperation in the field of aircraft construction. We are well aware of EMBRAER's interest in making contacts with the Soviets in the area of scientific and technical cooperation. There are opportunities for developing those relations and achieving concrete results on the industrial level. EMBRAER is now making its own aircraft. The fact that it is selling to the United States, France and other countries of that size means that its technical standing is high." The AN-32 was conceived to serve small strips of land in mountainous areas (up to 4,500 meters) with a hot climate. Its maximum load is 6.7 tons, and the cruising speed is 530 kilometers per hour. The distance for take-off is 750 meters, and for landing it is 470 meters. With a ceiling of 9,000 meters, it has a pressurized cabin, which facilitates its adaptation as a passenger plane. Its crew consists of a pilot, copilot and navigator. [Text] [Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 20 Sep 84 p 28] 2909

CSO: 3342/4

FENALCO NOTES POLITICAL INSTABILITY RISK IN ECONOMIC CRISIS

Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 6 Sep 84 p 9-A

[Text] At a plenary session of the National Federation of Businessmen (FENALCO) Colombians' attention was drawn to the fact and then they were warned that, if the country's economic problem continues to worsen, there is a risk that its political institutions will become unstable.

They proposed that the regional allowances granted congressmen be eliminated, pointed out that the surtax on income tax the government is trying to impose will work against revival of the economy and that the assumptions regarding income impair the taxpayer's right to defend himself by placing him in the position of being delinquent in his taxes.

They charged that the government had gone so far as to establish chains of assumptions, like that concerning gross income, to establish estimated income and to restrict the means of proof the taxpayer may offer.

"Through the restrictions on exempt income, taxes will be extended to sectors that have traditionally been considered to be excluded from the tax system, as when social benefits, bonuses, vacations, retirement dividends, maternity benefits, family subsidies and others are indirectly assessed."

They expressed the opinion that "serious bottlenecks" continue to exist in the process of economic recovery, as demonstrated by the stagnation of the farm sector, obstacles in the construction industry, the unhealthy state of the financial system due to the decline in earning power and capital and the increase in debts which it is doubtful may be repaid.

As other measures to beat the crisis the country is going through, they proposed sacrifices in government expenditures, revision of subsidies to some sectors, an increase in public investment, proper management of official imports, a limit on additions to the budget and revision of the policy of regional assistance.

Politics and the Economy

At the FENALCO meeting, which was in session all day yesterday, they noted that the fiscal deficit is largely due to the country's political practices, since



government expenditures constitute a reflection of the realization of political objectives.

They said that Congress is obliged to study public income and expenditure budgets, but that the "superficiality" of the analysis probably makes that institution an /accomplice/ [in italics] to the imbalance of the economy.

"In these practices Congress might make an excellent contribution to a cleanup of the nation's finances by eliminating the system of congressional allowances which have been a constant source of disturbances in the administration of the nation and have also ended up becoming an instrument of unethical behavior, diversions and abuses."

They revealed that 1,352 billion pesos were allocated this year to be distributed as congressional allowances.

#### Tax Measures

The businessmen's association recognized the importance of projects to efficiently organize expenditures, reform the Budget Act and merge inefficient agencies.

With reference to the surtax on the tax on income and supplementary income, they maintained that the taxpayer's ability to pay has been exhausted through the three tax reforms that were presented in previous years.

They noted that "the government plans to set in motion a number of income assumptions that impair the taxpayer's right to defend himself and place him in a situation that is almost delinquent. We cannot infer anything but this from the systems used to estimate income on the basis of bank account balances, the determination of income through that produced 4 or 5 days of the year and turnovers of capital assets."

They indicated that prior standards combined with the standards imposed to determine assessments may facilitate abuses and dubious actions by mid-level administrators.

With regard to the big currency issue contemplated in the fiscal reform plan, at the businessmen's association meeting they wondered about the effect it will have on the rate of inflation.

The businessmen's first suggestion referred to the need for the government to trim public expenditures, since they noted that "it is up to the executive to make the biggest contribution to the sacrifice."

They pointed out that the increase in direct or indirect taxes had placed the taxpayer in the position of being unable to accept any more taxes.

Revision of government subsidies granted several sectors was the second suggestion and the third was to earmark more funds for investment since most is spent on operations.



ed for properly managing official imports as a way of saving sizable  
s in funds was also proposed.

fifth suggestion has to do with absorption of the deficits of decentralized  
generis which the national budget has to cover, with a subsequent additional  
burden on finances.

FENALCO distributed the increase in taxes among those organizations without any  
interest in profit, emphasizing that "the tax burden should fall on those orga-  
nizations that obtain unjustifiable privileges for the development of eminently  
lucrative activities on the pretext that they have no desire for profit."

They let it be known that they had had enough of the way of handling the budget  
through additions made once it has been submitted and requested that the oppor-  
tunity to make changes in it be limited to only once a year.

They asked that the appointment of public employees without taking into account  
the appropriate budget items or authorization of expenditures be listed as a  
crime.

#### Economic Plan

At the FENALCO meeting they pressed for the establishment of an economic plan  
"without any surprises" for a genuine, long-term revival of the economy.

"The economic and social policy of the immediate future must go deeply into a  
search for solutions to the structural problems that are blocking the goals of  
social and economic recovery."

In the field of labor agreements between employers and workers must be promoted,  
an aggressive plan for the development of exports to generate hard currency,  
stimulate agriculture, apply mechanisms for recapitalizing and strengthening  
the financial sector and correcting the inefficiencies in the government  
services.

They stressed the fact that planning and harmony must be recovered, not only  
as elements of design, but also of financial management.

"The economic situation the country is going through is worrisome. To the  
problems in evidence on the fiscal front and the external sector of the economy  
are added high unemployment rates and the gradual deterioration of vital sec-  
tors like the financial sector."

They said that the current problems generate confusion and skepticism as to  
the country's ability to get through hard times, aggravated by the independence  
political forces are beginning to display with regard to the government's ini-  
tiatives.

They said that industrial sector recovery is threatened by the fiscal crisis  
and the deterioration of the other branches of production.

They maintained that the country's economy is facing serious dilemmas: re-  
striction of imports, a greater change in the exchange rate and the greater  
austerity the deficit is imposing on public investment.

# DANE REPORTS 10.4-PERCENT GROWTH IN MANUFACTURING

Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 5 Sep 84 p 10

[Text] The national manufacturing industry registered a real growth rate of 10.4 percent during the first 5 months of this year in comparison with the same period last year, the National Department of Statistics (DANE) reports.

In terms of current prices the increase was 31.2 percent with increases recorded in 19 groups of products and decreases in 9.

In a balance sheet of the results of the monthly manufacturing sample for May 1984, the fact is conspicuous that, at constant prices, these increases applied to professional and scientific equipment, transport rigs and equipment, non-metallic mineral products, tobacco, food, paper and paper products, industrial chemicals, petroleum and coal byproducts, rubber products, nonelectrical machinery and metal products, all with increases of over 10 percent.

DANE notes that the increase in all manufacturing sectors, except parchment coffee, was 31.2 percent in nominal terms and 10.4 percent in real values, these being the highest production rates recorded in the last 4 years.

The food products group showed an increase of 11.6 percent at constant prices, beverages 3.6 percent, tobacco 31.3 percent and 50 percent at current prices.

Affected by negative rates in the last 6 years, in May the textile industry showed a growth rate of 33.2 percent at current prices and 7.4 percent at constant prices.

The garment industry showed 15.6 percent and 3.8 percent respectively. The lumber and wood products sector showed an increase of 8.6 percent in real terms; paper and paper products gained an increase of 16.1 percent and industrial chemicals showed an increase of 54.7 percent during the same period in nominal terms and of 33.9 percent in real terms, these being the highest rates in the entire industrial aggregate.

The manufacture of other chemical products attained real value increases of 6.4 percent, petroleum byproducts industries 2.4 percent and the other petroleum and coal byproducts industries 11.9 percent.

The rubber products sector advanced by 10.9 percent, glass and glass products by 2.4 percent, metal products, except machinery, by 10.4 percent and machinery, except electrical equipment, by 24.5 percent and in real terms by 33.6 percent; transport rigs and equipment, which over the past few years have shown a sizable decline, in May attained a growth rate of 49.1 percent at current values and of 25.8 percent at constant prices.

The professional and scientific equipment group attained an increase of 29.4 percent in real terms and the miscellaneous industries group one of 31.1 percent.

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CSO: 3348/573

GEOGRAPHIC INSTITUTE MAP NOTES BORDER ZONES, DISTRICTS

Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 28 Aug 84 p 12-A

[Text] The Agustin Codazzi Geographic Institute has drawn up the first map of the border zones and districts established in the Border Statute the national government enacted last year. The map will enable us to specify the zones in which special development programs for the nation's border regions will be applied and to determine which of them will be subject to preferential tax or tariff treatment.

Decree 3448 of 17 December last, also referred to as the Border Statute, established 14 of the country's zones, including several intendancies, police districts and departments, as border regions and among them designated as border districts the municipalities and towns located inside those regional boundaries within which the circumstances that have marked the border crisis are more pronounced.

The purpose of the classification was to establish preferential treatment in terms of planning and public investment, credit for development, incentives for the farm and livestock sector and incentives for industrial and commercial activities in these regions.

For example, the statute made it mandatory for the economic authorities to earmark at least 10 percent of the entire investment budget for the ministries and administrative departments to make use of in those zones classified as border zones.

The Monetary Board is authorized to set up special mechanisms so that economic activities in these regions may benefit from development loans and it can also create new lines of credit for this purpose.

Through the statute projects involving exploitation of the agricultural resources that are being promoted in these regions were declared to be projects of interest to the country's economic and social development and the Ministry of Agriculture was ordered to assign priority handling to projects involving the assumption of title to land, control over the exploitation of natural resources, the investigation and transfer of technology, the granting of cheaper credit by the Agrarian Bank and the extension of DRI [Integrated Rural Development Program] plan benefits to these border regions.

## Measures Being Studied

The training of and credit for small businessmen, tax incentives for national industry and for foreigners who invest in these zones, an official purchase plan and programs for the development of tourism are also covered in the statute.

The preferential treatment Decree 3448 refers to will be applied in the border zones and districts specified on the map through regulations those agencies specifically responsible for each development front are preparing.

As for the Secretariat of Border Affairs of the Office of the President, it is studying different measures to stimulate investment in and development of the zones. One of the initiatives has to do with the creation of special administrative marketing outlets once it has been established that the sales made in hard currency in the border regions may be classified as exports.

The enterprises that have been proposed would be largely composed of commercial and service establishments from each sector and the purposes for which they are created would run from sales supervision, so that the products are not turned into fictitious exports, to management training and the selection of those products which, in accordance with analyses of each neighboring country's exportable supply, may be advantageous in comparison with those of the border area. They would also have the function of promoting economic diversification in these regions.

The mechanism for encouraging investments in this type of project would be the creation of a voucher which the National Bank would issue to foreign buyers, redeemable or convertible into purchases in the border regions.

At the same time they have been thinking of introducing a sort of tax refund to foreign buyers and of implementing a nonredeemable export license in an attempt to adjust the local currency to those of the neighboring countries and to "dedollarize" the border zones, which would facilitate the application of trade systems like triangulation.

Another plan that is being studied for these regions in conjunction with the Border Division of the Ministry of Foreign Relations and the Colombian Oceanographic Commission involves integration of the coastal borders, which would be realized through a proposed law.

The adoption of measures in the near future oriented toward economic recovery of the border zones will depend on the results produced by studies commissioned by the government on the feasibility of applying specific ways of handling the different production items that are developed in the border regions.

The following are the border zones and districts established in Decree 3448 of 1983 and indicated on the map the Agustin Codazzi Geographic Institute has drawn up:



## Border Zones

1. The municipalities of Arboletes, Necocli, San Pedro de Uraba, Turbo, Apartado, Chigorodo and Mutata in the department of Antioquia.
2. The municipality of Cubara in the department of Boyaca.
3. The department of Cesar.
4. The municipalities of Acandí, Unguía, Riosucio, Jurado and Bahía Solano in the department of Choco.
5. The department of Guajira.
6. The department of Narino.
7. The department of Norte de Santander.
8. The intendancy of Arauca.
9. The intendancy of Putumayo.
10. The intendancy of San Andres y Providencia.
11. The police district of Amazonas.
12. The police district of Guainia.
13. The police district of Vaupes.
14. The police district of Vichada.

## Border Districts

The following are border districts:

1. The municipality of Cubara in the department of Boyaca.
2. The municipalities of Acandí and Jurado in the department of Choco.
3. The municipalities of Maicao, Barrancas, Fonseca, San Juan del Cesar, Villanueva and Urumita in the department of Guajira.
4. The municipalities of Tumaco, Ricaurte, Cumbal, Carlosama and Ipiales in the department of Narino.
5. The municipalities of Tibu, Cucuta, Pamplona, Villa del Rosario, Rangovalia and Herran in the department of Norte de Santander.
6. The municipalities of Arauca, Arauquita and Saravena in the intendancy of Arauca.
7. The municipalities of Orito, Puerto Asis, Villagarzon and Puerto Leguizamo in the intendancy of Putumayo.
8. The Archipelago of San Andres in the intendancy of San Andres y Providencia.
9. The municipality of Leticia in the police district of Amazonas.
10. The municipality of Puerto Inirida in the police district of Guainia.
11. The municipality of Mitu in the police district of Vaupes.
12. The municipality of Puerto Carreno in the police district of Vichada.
13. In the intendancies and police districts, those towns and villages that are adjacent to the country's international border.



Key:

1. Republic of Colombia, Political-Administrative Division, Ministry of Finance and Public Credit, Agustin Codazzi Geographic Institute.
2. Legend.
3. International border.
4. Department border.
5. National capital.
6. Department capital.
7. Intendancy and police district capital.
8. Scale.
9. Border districts [red].
10. Border regions [green].

Map of the country's border zones and districts, which constitute 55 percent of the nation's land area, drawn up by the Agustin Codazzi Institute.

11,466

CSO: 3348/573

CHURCH WARNS OF MARXIST LEANINGS IN LIBERATION THEOLOGY

Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 4 Sep 84 p 11

[Declaration by members of the Colombian See: Cardinal Alfonso Lopez Trujillo, archbishop of Medellin; Hector Rueda Hernandez, chairman of the Episcopal Conference and archbishop of Bucaramanga; Samuel S. Buitrago Trujillo, vice chairman of the Episcopal Conference and archbishop of Popayan; Mario Revollo Bravo, archbishop of Bogota; Alberto Uribe Urdaneta, archbishop of Cali; German Villa Gaviria, archbishop of Barranquilla; Augusto Trujillo Arango, archbishop of Tunja; Jose Joaquin Florez Hernandez, archbishop of Ibague; Jose de Jesus Pimiento, archbishop of Manizales; Carlos Jose Ruiseco Vieira, archbishop of Cartagena; and Arcadio Bernal Supelano, apostolic vicar of Sibundoy (for the missionary prelates); issued in Bogota on 3 September 1984]

[Text] The Colombian See has warned clergymen, theologians and the faithful about the Marxist deviations liberation theology has been the object of and which it considers to be ruinous to the Christian faith and the Christian way of life and which has finally betrayed the cause of the oppressed and the poor.

Expressing its support yesterday for the doctrinal paper issued by the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and approved by Pope John Paul II concerning the Marxist tendencies of some liberation theories, the Standing Committee of the Colombian Episcopal Conference, headed by its chairman, Monsignor Hector Rueda Hernandez, and Cardinal Alfonso Lopez Trujillo, launched an appeal for people to have faith in the social doctrine of the church.

After accepting the fact that there are priests in our country who engage in said Marxist deviations, the see explained that, "correctly understood, liberation theology recognizes the aspirations of man, who, conscious of his dignity and tormented by various kinds of slavery and oppression, seeks liberation in the diverse fields of culture, economics and politics...."

It added that the Vatican paper should be received as a doctrine proclaimed by the authentic teaching of the church, to which we should extend our religious assent, one of intelligence and goodwill.

## Declaration

The Colombian bishops issued the following declaration yesterday:

1. An important paper, doctrinal in nature, has just appeared, published by the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, on the valid and positive aspects of liberation theology, one containing clear and precise warnings about deviations influenced by Marxist tendencies.
2. This doctrinal paper was expressly and directly approved by the supreme pontiff, John Paul II, and published with his authorization. We Catholics should receive this lesson as a doctrine proclaimed by the authentic teaching of the church, to which we should extend our religious assent, one of intelligence and goodwill.
3. As the representative of the Colombian See, the Standing Committee of the Episcopal Conference unanimously receives with veneration and endorsement the teachings and guidelines presented by the Holy See in this timely paper, which clarifies views and helps to avoid confusion. /It has the specific purpose of calling to the attention of clergymen, theologians and the faithful the deviations stemming from resorting to Marxist ideologies and methods, a situation which has befallen "some liberation theologies" with ruinous consequences for the Christian faith and the Christian way of life and which has finally ended up betraying the cause of the oppressed and the poor./ [in italics]
4. Correctly understood, liberation theology recognizes the aspirations of man, who, conscious of his dignity and tormented by various kinds of slavery and oppression, seeks liberation in the diverse fields of culture, economics and politics. It recognizes the fact that sin is the worst kind of slavery and that Christ, the vanquisher of sin, is the great liberator of all men, whether they be politically free or slaves.
5. Illuminated by the authentic message of the revelation interpreted by the teachings of the church, liberation theology has a Biblical foundation, has been propounded in numerous consiliar, pontifical and episcopal papers. The church has made an extensive and meritorious effort through many institutions that work for justice and the defense of human rights, and to find solutions to the anguish and miseries of the poor and in response to the aspirations of liberation.
6. There are, however, deviations and false tendencies that are as ruinous for man as the very miseries "some liberation theologies" claim to combat, the most well-known and widespread theologies, those which are, furthermore, influenced by Marxist methods and ideologies that lead to the negation of faith and end up corrupting and betraying the initial commitment to the poor. Acceptance of the Marxist analysis incorporated into the ideological-philosophical structure of Marxism inexorably leads to the revolutionary praxis of the class struggle, which destroys ethics, denies the sooty of salvation, reduces everything to political judgments and leads to erroneous actions in the pastoral domain that impair the unity of the Christian community.



7. On the other hand, the greatest disorientation of "certain liberation theologies" lies in the false interpretation of the person of Christ and the mystery of the church, in the manipulation of Holy Scripture, particularly the Book of Exodus, and in the abuses and corruptions of the liturgy itself.

8. Calling attention in the church to the serious deviations of "certain liberation theologies" is not a manifestation of indifference to peoples' misery; on the contrary, the church listens to the clamor for justice and wants to respond to the poor with love to the point of sacrifice, and it reminds us that the struggle for human rights constitutes a fight for justice that must be realized with respect for human dignity. Resorting to violence, regardless of what the source may be, must be condemned. It is a mortal injury to claim to restore justice through violence. Violence engenders violence and degrades humans; it is an outrage to human dignity in the persons of the victims and debases that same dignity in those who perpetrate it. There are unjust institutions, but the greatest injustice is in the hearts of men. A change of institutions alone does not make man new, just, fraternal and charitable. Bitter and shameful experiences demonstrate that those who attain power through revolutionary violence, especially in the name of liberation of the oppressed, keep entire nations in the thrall of conditions that are humiliating and unworthy of man.

9. /The Colombian See has already had occasion to denounce such deviations, particularly in the paper, "Christian Identity in the Action for Justice," which today assumes a new timeliness./ [in italics]

In the face of the many serious problems of injustice and violence that at present confront our country, the paper we are presenting makes an appeal to each and every one of us, from the position he occupies and on his own responsibility, to listen to the clamor for justice and to seek that authentic kind of liberation that arises first from the conversion of one's heart and which then leads to an effective change of persons and groups of humans.

10. Let us have confidence in the social doctrine of the church. Let us try to rid our hearts of sin the ultimate source of all kinds of slavery and injustice. Let us receive Christ, our great liberator and source of absolute salvation.

11,466

CSO: 3348/573

## PEREZ HERRERO ADDRESSES SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM

Havana GRANMA WEEKLY REVIEW in English 16 Sep 84 p 4

[Article by Gladys Hernandez]

[Text] "THE CREATION of the School of Journalism also responds to the need to solve the problems mentioned in Political Bureau Guidelines on Improving the Effectiveness of Media Information, and there could be no more appropriate setting for its official opening than those directives and the celebration of International Journalists' Day." These were the words of Antonio Perez Herrero, alternate member of the Political Bureau and member of the Secretariat of the Communist Party of Cuba, at the start of the 1984-85 academic year at the recently set up School of Journalism.

The opening speech was given by the school's director Lazara Penones, who described the school as the realization of an old dream that had been taken up by the Party, the Ministry of Higher Education and the University of Havana, considering that as far back as the memorable 4th Congress of the Journalists' Union of Cuba an improvement in the methods of teaching journalism had been recommended.

She went on to say that excellency and rigor were key to journalistic training and that to teach at the school should be considered an honor.

She concluded by expressing her hope that the School of Journalism would set an example in political and ideological work among young people and in training the kind of journalists the Party is calling for.

Remarks by Perez Herrero

Perez Herrero said that Cuba needs journalists capable of helping transform the Cuban press according to the Political Bureau Guidelines which should be taken as the guide for the School of Journalism in its work and as study material for every new group of students.

Among other problems, he said, the Political Bureau had drawn attention to a drop in journalistic professionalism over the last few years. He went on to say, "You can help revive that professionalism through the high level of learning and close relationship with life that must characterize the work of the school.

"From the very first year and the first informational pieces, in line with Party guidelines, we must develop and inculcate in students a critical bent. They must have opinions, they must analyze and evaluate," he said.

"I have thought about this and I would venture to say that perhaps along with clear, readable reporting, originality and other requisites, the student's critical judgment should also be evaluated in each piece of work."

"We would not want to create a certain state of society critics, of people who feel they are bound to express an opinion or suggestion about everything. It's not wanton opinion or criticism we're after," he stated.

"Being a journalist calls for sound professional training, specialization, knowledge, experience, moral courage, political sensitivity and a sense of responsibility. It's no easy task, nor are these qualities developed overnight. But this is where your sights should be set in training future journalists," he pointed out.

Expanding further on critical powers, he declared, "We must leave aside petty criticism--for in the last analysis this can only discredit criticism as such--and devote our work to the major problems of society, placing special emphasis on those of the economy, of sectors of production, using every means within our reach, supported by the Party organizations, the trade unions and the masses.

"Criticism does not only mean objective reporting of the events. It means analysis and this is achieved by listening to all viewpoints and helping channel them in search of solutions. Our press is now taking its first steps in this direction but must not be lured by the spectacular nor be deceived by appearances. It calls for farsighted journalists. We should not fall into vague generalizations when pinpointing responsibilities in cases of negligence."

Perez Herrero concluded by saying, "The School of Journalism has been created, it now has a life of its own. But you must be aware of the fact that many, including some of the most important of its functions, are still goals towards which we must strive. You can count on our support in this endeavor. We are sure you will succeed."

CSO: 3200/5

## LEADERSHIP SEMINAR HELD FOR CHRISTIAN STUDENT MOVEMENT

Havana GRANMA WEEKLY REVIEW in English 16 Sep 84 p 4

[Article by Milagros Oliva]

[Text] THE EVANGELICAL Theological Seminary, which covers a large area in the city of Matanzas (100 kilometers east of Havana), hosted the leadership training seminar, which is organized every year by the Christian Student Movement (MEC) of Cuba.

In addition to the Cuban Christians taking part in the event were guests from Bolivia, El Salvador, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Mexico, Chile, the German Democratic Republic and the United States of America representing 18 Churches: Baptist, Methodist, Catholic, Presbyterian, Pentecostal Christian, Reformed Christian, Evangelical League, Nazarene, New Pines, Friends, Episcopal, Apostolic, Salvation Army, Congregational Pentecostal, Lutheran (GDR), United Christ (USA), Holy Pentecostal and Church of God.

Humberto Puentes, territorial coordinator of MEC in the provinces of Havana and City of Havana, explained that the event was attended by students and young workers selected on an equitable basis by region to help out in grass-roots work.

"One of the reasons for this is the participation of young Christians in society, where we have room to express our faith," he said.

He added that this year the attendance had increased both among Cubans and foreigners. Participants were junior and senior high or university graduates and those working had finished their studies.

"It has been a very busy week. In addition to participating in all the sessions, we toured sites of historic and tourist interest, including El Morrillo, where revolutionaries Antonio Guiteras and Carlos Aponte were killed on May 8, 1983."

### Delegates' Opinions

Tomas Fernandez is a member of the Christian Students Movement in Bolivia. He is a Catholic and heads the youth work division. "This means direct work with young people in the message of Christ and youth training in the theological field.

"Right now we are reorganizing the Movement in my country and so far the Methodist and Catholic Churches are represented.

"There has been a change in Latin America, in Nicaragua. This implies change in the Church structure.

"The reorganization of which I spoke is possible thanks to the democratic opening taking place in my country. Now we have a bit more freedom of expression.

"I'm 24 years old and I study social work at Greater San Andres University in La Paz. This is the first time I have been in Cuba. Let me tell you what I think of it.

"There are three stages in my life. The first, when I was 13 or 14, and all I knew about Cuba was gathered from hostile propaganda depicting Cuba as a Sovietized country with Russian missile bases and the whole island in complete alarm; above all, a strategic position for Russia.

"In what I call my second stage, I entered the university and, because of what I chose to study, I started to read about different currents, among them Marxism. With the limited material that reached Bolivia about Cuba, I started to see things in a different light, contrary to my initial view, and I started to want to come here. I learned that there were quite a lot of Churches and Christians here and when I made contact with the MEC of Cuba I started to change.

"The third stage is the present. It has been quite a blow. I came to Cuba and found sociable, happy people with keen interests. I feel very relaxed, as if I had lived here a long time.

"My vision of Cuba is very different from what it was when I got here. People with patriotic awareness who like to share everything, which is what I want for my country.

"Here the flag, the anthem, the country really mean something.

"That is the vision I take back with me of Cuba, where there is the contradiction of believers and nonbelievers living together. I take back an excellent impression of Cuba, not just of the people but also the beautiful beaches such as Varadero. I will have to come back for a longer stay."

Samuel Lobato is participating in an event of this kind for the second time. He is 27 years old and was born in Puebla, Mexico. Now he is the executive secretary of the World Federation of Christian Student Movements (FUMEC) in Latin America and the Caribbean.

"I have a lot of things to say about Cuba. The fact of coming to a country with a different social structure.... I didn't see big supermarkets, but people don't go hungry here....

"I was able to visit the Hermanos Amerijeiras Hospital where there is a very high level of science and technology. I also discussed education, different



incentives, planning, the fact that everyone has access to education, not just in a personal sense but also in terms of developing skills in line with the needs of the country.

"Another notable thing is employment. All countries that I have visited have unemployment and people live in great insecurity. Religious freedom is another issue. I visited two churches in City of Havana, the Methodist and the Apostolic Church of Jesus Christ, and we worshipped together. One can rest assured there is full freedom of religion here.

"I knew this but now there are many things I can say and shatter the lies. I bear witness to religious freedom. I saw it, heard it and shared it".

Lobato told us about his "friend and comrade" Salvadoran pastor and professor of theology Augusto Coto--whose photo presided over all sessions of the event--who was also the rector of the Baptist Seminary in Mexico. Augusto Coto was killed on a guerrilla mission.

Ziebath Diefer is a pastor in the Lutheran Church and general secretary of the Christian Student Movement in the GDR.

"This is my first visit to this country. I have been very impressed by the climate and the friendly, good people with whom it was easy to make friends.

"I also see that the MEC of Cuba is closely linked to the country's development and promotes solidarity with the peoples of Central America.

"Christians have considerable freedom to express their views not only in worship but also in cultural and solidarity activities. Cuban Christians seem to me to be closely involved in their society.

CSO: 3200/5

## CONCERNS OF WORKING WOMEN EXPRESSED IN CTC RESOLUTION

Havana TRABAJADORES in Spanish 17 Aug 84 p 4

[Text] The Communist Party of Cuba, the state, the FMC [Federation of Cuban Women], the CTC [Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions] and the unions have focused on woman so that she play her role in the development of society. The Cuban union movement has adopted the principle that elimination of discrimination against women and the solution of their problems are only possible under socialism. Also the proletariat cannot achieve their complete freedom without achieving the complete emancipation of women.

The Cuban working class highly values the militant presence of our women in the Territorial Troops Militia and their position in each of the battles fought for the conquest of freedom, independence and the sovereignty of the fatherland as well as their stand on internationalist aid to other peoples of the world.

It also recognizes their outstanding participation in the development of production and services, passionately embracing the beautiful motto of dedicating ourselves more than ever to production and defense.

During the years, there have been in-depth changes in the situation of the Cuban woman, changes tied mainly to her participation in socially useful work. The number of female workers increased 284,168 compared to the last congress. This figure should continue to increase along with our economic development.

It should be pointed out that the following have been favorable influences on these positive results: the work developed and the measures aimed at facilitating access by women to employment; the struggle so that women can remain employed; and improvement of the Cuban economy and the SDPE [Economic Management and Planning System].

Independent of these achievements, it is important to point out that the lowest percentages of working women correspond to the categories of leaders and laborers. The latter has grown the least in comparison with the figures from the 14th Congress.

The policy of the Communist Party of Cuba that women have equal access to the responsibilities of economic and political leadership--shaped in the theses and resolutions of its congresses--indicates the line to be followed by the

administrations and the union movement from the basic units to the intermediate and top levels. The promotion of a woman must be the natural result of her effort and personal development and the application of the principle of equal rights and opportunities for all citizens.

The quarry of female cadres is at the base. This is demonstrated by the fact that their presence is greater in the union sections and bureaus. However, this participation drops in the intermediate and top levels. This does not deny the progress achieved in that sense during these years.

The situation is really critical in the administrative leadership of the state since the proportion of women does not tally with their numerical presence, labor efficiency, level of education and political and social maturity.

Keeping in mind the scientific and technical process that the economic development of the country demands, the need for all workers, including women, to have general as well as specialized instruction has grown. Knowledge, advanced professional training and the general culture of the individual are indispensable conditions for efficient work in all labor sectors.

To benefit the working family, the state has instituted services that contribute to better care of children and help ease the burden of domestic tasks that basically weighs on working women. Nevertheless, the CTC and the FMC must continue to watch the quality of these services so that they really respond to the objective for which they have been created.

In addition to the social risks covered by Social Security for the entire working class, legal norms have been dictated to protect the working woman in particular, mainly due to her social function as a mother.

The union movement has tried to improve the working conditions of women. However, it is necessary to increase demand in this since there are many labor centers where women do not have the minimal working conditions.

Based on this and in order to encourage achievement of complete equality for women and their total integration into the economic, political, cultural, union and social activities of the country, the 15th CTC Congress adopts the following based on the theses discussed by the workers and enriched by their many proposals.

#### Resolution

1. To fight a hard battle in every sense to prevent any type of discrimination against women, favoring their incorporation and continuance in employment.
2. To continue our work in collaboration with the FMC to strengthen the participation of women as active members of the Territorial Troops Militia.
3. To demand compliance with existing regulations determining preferential jobs for women and their right to hold them based on legislation and procedures established for the selection of new personnel.

4. To develop work to increase the percentage of women in the occupational category of laborer.
5. To continue participating actively in the Coordinating Committees for Female Employment at all levels.
6. To achieve greater female representation in the levels of intermediate and top leadership of the union movement. State organisms must comply with the recommendation contained in the First Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba thesis on the complete equality of women concerning the establishment of a suitable policy for promotion of women from the basic units to the top levels.
7. To require that state organs and the leadership of enterprises and budgeted units as well as the local people's government organs insure suitable participation by women in professional and technical training courses.
8. To support, with the Education, Science and Sports Union and the FMC, the struggle to improve the quality of service at daycare centers and boarding schools and maximum exploitation of the installed capacity of these institutions.
9. To demand that the Institute of Physical Planning and the investment units offer better selection in the placement of new daycare centers and more demand from the construction units so that these installations have the established quality and suitable maintenance.
10. To demand that the local people's government organs and the units that participate in July and August vacation plans for children of working women improve and increase areas and the program of activities developed so that they become more attractive and stimulate children's participation.
11. To complete analysis of the priority sales and service systems for working women in the industrial products, foods and services establishments so that the necessary modifications are introduced to permit them to really fulfill the objectives for which they were conceived.
12. To continue requiring that the administrations strictly comply with the legislation that specifically protects working women, especially in reference to maternity leave and complementary unpaid leave.
13. To insure that the Collective Labor Agreements include measures to facilitate and improve women's working conditions.
14. To continue demanding appropriate treatment for working women based on the double social role they play.
15. To continue holding Union Activities for Working Women since they are important ways to help solve those problems that affect them and can be solved now.

16. To continue celebrating "the International Day of the Woman" in all the work centers of the country where women work to recognize working women for their valuable contribution to the building of socialism in our fatherland as well as to express our solidarity with all the women in the world who fight against imperialism and for national liberation.

17. The 15th CTC Congress makes the National Council and the National Committee responsible for implementing the measures, applying and supervising this resolution.

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CSO: 3248/801



## BRIEFS

SEMINAR ON U.S. MINORITIES--CASA DE las Americas will sponsor two major events this year; the 3rd Latin American Photography Colloquium (November 19-23) and the 2nd Seminar on the Situation of Black, Chicano, Cuban, Native American, Puerto Rican, Caribbean and Asian Communities in the United States (December 3-5). The 2nd Seminar, cosponsored by Casa de las Americas and the Center for Studies on the Americas, will be held at Casa in the Vedado section of Havana. Papers will focus around five main themes; minority youth status, migration, political economy, culture and the status of women. Some aspects to be discussed are crime, crime and youth unemployment, changes in U.S. immigration policy, the effect of unemployment and the role of intellectuals in cultural development. This seminar will be the last of the major events programmed by Casa de las Americas for this year. [By Rosa Elvira Pelaez] [Excerpts] [Havana GRANMA WEEKLY REVIEW in English 16 Sep 84 p 3]

CSO: 3200/5

# GAIRY PAPER DISCUSSES GENESIS OF 'MONGOOSE GANG' CHARGES

St Georges THE GRENADA NEWSLETTER in English 18 Aug 84 pp 21, 22

[Text] The "Grenada Guardian", newspaper of Sir Eric Gairy's Grenada United Labour Party (GULP), in its first issue (17th August) has given an explanation of "the Mongoose Gang", the gang of roughnecks employed during the 1970s by the Gairy Administration to intimidate opponents.

The World Health Organisation, the newspaper says, launched a programme in Grenada aimed at stamping out rabies by poisoning the mongoose. Sir Eric's Trade Union, the Grenada Manual, Maritime and Intellectual Workers Union, supplied the labour force for this project, and some of the people employed were in the habit of fighting in the streets and market places ...

"The journalist, Alister Hughes, labelled these street-fighters 'Gairy's Union Mongoose Gang'; the newspaper says. " "When the kick of that name was wearing thin, he dropped the word 'Union' and designated them 'Gairy's Mongoose Gang'".

According to the "Grenada Guardian", when Maurice Bishop (of the New Jewel Movement) came on the scene "with the propaganda experts", they changed this designation and called them "Gairy's Mongoose Secret Police", and told a lot of lies about these men and their association with Gairy.

Throughout the 1970s, and until it was deposed in 1979, the Gairy Administration has been associated with official violence meted out by criminals in the employ of the State. This was first evident on 3rd May 1970 when Mr. Gairy as Premier of Grenada, called attention to the fact.

Black Power manifestations in Trinidad spilled over into Grenada and there was a series of fires. Reacting to this, Mr. Gairy as Premier, stated publicly that he would "fight fire with fire".

"I am proud of the response to my call for men, whatever their record, to come to the defence of Grenada", he said, "and some of the roughest and toughest of roughnecks have been recruited".

These "roughest and toughest of roughnecks", dubbed the "Mongoose Gang" by the Grenada public because of their "rabid" behaviour, were the subject of

scrutiny by the Duffus Commission of Inquiry appointed to look into the breakdown of law and order in Grenada during Mr. Gairy's Administration.

Officially called the "Police Aids", or "Special Reserve Police", Sir Eric referred to the "Mongoose Gang" also, at various times as "the Voluntary Intelligence Unit for Protection of Property", "Volunteer Special Guards", "the Night Ambush Squad", and "Volunteers for the Protection of Human Rights".

The Duffus Commission found that this gang, however, called, was "an unlawfully constituted body of men .... whose qualifications for service, in many cases, ..... was their known disposition for violence and lawlessness".

The responsibility for their establishment, recruitment and control was Mr. Gairy's, in his personal capacity, the Duffus Commissioners said, and "from their inception and throughout the time of their existence, (they) inflicted unspeakable atrocities upon many citizens of Grenada ..."

According to the GULP's "Grenada Guardian", however, Sir Eric was not, in any way, associated with the "mongoose Gang".

"These men were not connected to Sir Eric in any way except that Sir Eric was President of their Union", the newspaper said, "but most of his time and energy was devoted to his role as Prime Minister. He hardly saw them".

CSO: 3298/005

JAMAICAN PAPER INTERVIEWS NATIONAL PARTY'S BEN JONES

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 9 Sep 84 p 17

[Interview with Grenada National Party official Ben Jones by Margaret Morris of Kingston's THE SUNDAY GLEANER; date and place not specified]

[Text]

**B**EN JONES is quiet, dignified, precise: the antithesis of the Caribbean politician. Nevertheless he is a politician with a heavy responsibility: Deputy Leader and tireless negotiator of the Grenada National Party, the core around which the other 'moderate' parties may or may not coalesce to create the T.N.U. (Team for National Unity) and face Gairy's challenge in the upcoming Grenada elections.

A former Civil Servant and G.N.P. Senator, Jones divides his time between his law practice and his farm. His recreation is tennis; a former international player he is now President of the Grenada Lawn Tennis Association.

Jones sees an urgent priority "To restore people's confidence in the country, in Government, and in themselves," but admits "I haven't yet decided how to go about it."

Convinced that "strange influences" have come into this country that make for instability, he is unequivocal in his gratitude to the Americans. "We are going to need them around for a tremendously long time.... they are interfering with nobody at all, just carrying out their normal patrol acts as a deterrent."

### Bribery

**Gleaner:** How come you were never put into detention?

**Jones:** There's no good reason, no way of explaining it... I choose to believe that the Lord protected me. (P.R.G. security men tried to bribe his helper to frame him). She was a poor girl, she really had a need to accept what was offered her but she didn't ... The thing I like to remember most of that time is that she stood fast and said no.

**Gleaner:** Do you see elections before the end of the year?

**Jones:** They are still having trouble putting their lists together...there are errors, we are monitoring the lists.. they are all-important.

**Gleaner:** Do you feel ready for elections?

### Significant dates

**Jones:** I sometimes feel the sooner the better. Other times I realize the electorate seems not yet ready. So I keep an open mind. In my view it is no good forcing them. These elections are the most important we have ever had or will ever have...(meanwhile) we are canvassing and campaigning house to house.

**Gleaner:** If the N.D.P. doesn't come in with you what is your plan?

**Jones:** We are still negotiating...because it is so vital we keep talking.

**Gleaner:** Where were you on October 19th?

**Jones:** We have a few very significant dates in the history of our country, and I have always been near to the scene of action but not in it. On October 19th I was at the High Court. I stood in the yard and watched the demonstrations.... a lot of people were in it who had not come to town for demonstrating at all. They were here and they joined in.

**Gleaner:** So Bishop was really beloved?

**Jones:** It is said so.

### People fed up

**Gleaner:** What is your own feeling?

**Jones:** My own feeling is that people were so fed up with what was going on...the increasing pressure on us, power being concentrated in fewer and fewer people...that people were willing and ready to take part in anything that allowed them to show their disgust.... I'm sure there were a lot of people in those demonstrations who didn't care two hoots about Bishop... I had a good view (of it) I saw the armoured cars going up to the Fort... I feared the worst but I couldn't believe they would fire on

the people... because from where I was looking on those people, they were quiet, just like people on a picnic. When I heard the guns go off I saw people running and jumping over walls and I thought 'My God they are going to kill them all...(The coup, the curfew) that is something I hope never, never to experience again. A lot of people will not understand what it was like ...The question of whether the Americans and the Caribbean forces should have come in here is .. debated by many people...we do not regard it as an invasion, it was the most timely rescue mission ever undertaken ..Most Grenadians felt Thank God. That is how I felt.

Noting that "There is reason to believe that a lot of these disbanded soldiers are unhappy and would like an opportunity to get back their arms and restore their revolution," Jones assesses the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement thus:

### Real danger of Gairy?

"They do not lack money, they lack acceptance. I don't think they could get off the ground now. The feeling, the hurt, is still too fresh, (people) are still terrified of them... You would have to have been here, and been a Grenadian, you would have to have endured it, to understand.

**Gleaner:** Do you think there is a real danger that Gairy could sweep the board?

**Jones:** I don't believe Gairy is strong enough to sweep the board but a lot of people are afraid of that, that is why there is pressure (from all sorts of people, ordinary people, you have to listen to them) pressure on us to get together.... Gairy is very cunning. He interfered with people, he appropriated their properties without compensating them but... there are other systems that could be much worse.

I think we have two situations we must avoid now, as much as we must avoid going back to the Gairy type of government we must make equal efforts (to avoid) the type of Jewel government... because, if anything, it was much worse...They are both menaces that must be avoided. My own view is that the last stage was much worse than the first. In Grenada we are infamous for making wrong choices. I only hope we would not repeat that process."



## BRIEFS

FERTILIZER SHORTAGE--A serious shortage of fertilisers and other agro-chemicals is currently gripping rice farmers country-wide. However, in Demerara, a limited amount is available but Cane Grove farmers were told by officials at the Regional administration office that distribution of fertilisers and other agro-chemicals will only be for those farmers who gave voluntary--or what was deemed self-help work--on farms nearby the Mahaica Hospital. The farmers are contending that it is not clear to them who owns these farms and they feel strongly that even if voluntary service is given they are not likely to get fertilisers. At any rate, conditions of sale are generally considered unjust. The Rice Producers Association is opposed to such conditions on the distribution of fertilisers. In the meantime, the Guyana Rice Board claims that it has no responsibility now for making fertilisers available to farmers. The current shortage of fertilisers and other agro-chemicals will have an adverse effect on production yields in the Rice Industry upon which Guyana's Economy depend so much. [Text] [Georgetown MIRROR in English 22 Jul 84 p 1]

NEWSPRINT RULING--Georgetown, Guyana, Saturday, (CANA)--A GUYANESE judge has dismissed applications by three Opposition People Progressive Party (PPP) members seeking to have the Trade Ministry's refusal or delay in granting permission to import newsprint for the "Mirror" newspaper declared a violation of the Constitution. The applicants, Narbada Persaud, Methulall Mangal and Moonsar Swammy had also claimed in affidavits, made five years ago, that their fundamental rights had been infringed by the Trade Ministry. In his judgement, Judge Aubrey Bishop said "no human system whether of distribution of commodities or otherwise, can be perfect and political opponents, possessed of peculiar attributes of sensitivity will always offer criticisms of each other. The court needs positive evidence in terms of the onerous burden the accuser applicants bear," he said. The judge said the New Guyana Co., Ltd., publishers of the Mirror, and the state-owned Guyana National newspapers Ltd. (GNNL) "suffered" similar experiences in obtaining newsprint. He said each company had discontinued one of its newspapers while the GNNL had also reduced the size of the daily "Chronicle". [Text] [Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 9 Sep 84 p 3]

CSO: 3298/006

## GOVERNMENT INITIATES NEW DRUG-CONTROL MEASURES

## Tax on Dealers

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 12 Sep 84 pp 1, 3

[Text]

**T**wenty eight persons have been accused by the Revenue Board of engaging in trafficking narcotics and have been required to pay over to the Government a total of \$117 million in taxes, the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Edward Seaga, announced in the House of Representatives yesterday.

The 28 are the first to be drawn into the "tax net" which Mr. Seaga said in February would be used on drug dealers in an effort to cut down on drug trafficking in the island. The Prime Minister said that this was one of the actions against indiscipline he had promised. He did not name the traffickers.

Mr. Seaga was speaking in the debate on the amendment to the Bill entitled "An Act to Amend the Civil Aviation Act" which was approved by the House yesterday.

The Prime Minister said: "It is well known that Al Capone was not defeated by the F.B.I. Al Capone was defeated by the Internal Revenue Service (the U.S. Tax Department or IRS). Al Capone was defeated by the tax-man. I don't want anybody to believe that we have been sleeping insofar as dealing with this matter in this way," Mr. Seaga told the House.

"I have here a list of 28 cases of persons who are involved as dealers in the trafficking of narcotics, some of them some very well known names: very well known names of which we have already served assessment on 24 for a total of \$103.61 million.

"And there are four more to come with an additional \$13.6 million in assessed taxes, bringing the total to \$117.21 million in these 28 cases. And there are more cases to

come.

"I have had reason to say before, we are not deaf, dumb and blind any more in dealing with these matters. There are methods by which information is obtained and obtainable, which has made us far more aware than ever has been the case before as a Government dealing with the illegalities in various forms of calculation.

"But insofar as this particular area is concerned, in dealing with what is known as the end of the narcotics dollar, the activities which we have taken and which we have carried out have so far yielded 24 assessments totalling \$103.61 million, and there are four more to come bringing it to 28, totalling \$117.21 million."

The Civil Aviation Amendment Act was first brought to the House in February by the Minister of Public Utilities and Transport, the Hon. Pearmel Charles. It was the first Bill in which public participation under the new one-party parliamentary pro-

cedures was allowed in the House and the Rev. Alston Henry, president of the Jamaica Association of Evangelicals, became the first member of the public to address the House under the new procedures, when he spoke in favour of the Bill.

JLP back-bencher, Mr. E. K. Powell, objected to certain points in the proposed Act and the matter was referred to a Joint Select Committee of Parliament (Senate and House), which increased the penalties to a maximum fine of three times the aggregate value of the aircraft, its engines, accessories and equipment, for illegal landing or take-off of an aircraft, in a report tabled last week Tuesday.

During the debate in February, Mr. Seaga had said that measures would be announced geared at imposing taxes on the drug traffickers. The Act was specifically aimed at the illegal drug export market which involved foreign aircraft utilising illegal airstrips.

Mr. Seaga said yesterday: "Who are we making these assessments against? I am not going to give you names, but I would like to give you some idea of what they possess: Case (a) three premises and five motor vehicles; case (b), who happens to be a very humble citizen, seven premises, three motor vehicles, nine race-horses and a large local bank account; case (c) eight premises, including one costing approximately \$1 million, also an apartment, two properties under cultivation, 12 motor vehicles and several businesses. And, Mr. Speaker, none of them pays tax.

"Case (d) four premises, three motor vehicles and a large local bank account; another case, three premises, 20 motor vehicles, a large local bank account; 16 premises and six motor vehicles is another case; one of the most notorious ones, seven premises; and, I could go on and on."

Mr. Seaga said that they had all sought legal advice and were attempting to prepare cases to object. "I hope they don't believe that these assessments are frivolous. I hope they realise that they have been made after substantial research has been carried out into their activities and into their livelihood," he said.

"So, as in the case of Al Capone, it may well be that the way in which this matter has been dealt with will be through the Revenue Board, and not necessarily only through security measures, although security measures are very important to the overall purpose."

Mr. Seaga said that the Government would also have to take action in reviewing legislation which governed the use, trading and cultivation of narcotics. He said that the laws would have to be tightened up.

The fourth area in which action would be taken, he said, was through the already established Council on Drug Abuse, which will look at the use of marijuana, cocaine and alcoholic abuse. The programme will include a media campaign.

The Hon. Oswald Harding, Minister without Portfolio, has been appointed Chairman of the Council, (replacing Dr. Ronald Irvine who has resigned from the Government) and there had been established a Security Committee headed by the Commissioner of Police. The Committee had proposed that drug counselling be part of school curricula.

## Airspace Regulations

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 12 Sep 84 pp 1, 3

### [Text]

Illegal movement of air traffic in Jamaica, carrying especially dangerous drugs, will now face heavy penalties with the passing of an amendment to the Civil Aviation Act in the House of Representatives yesterday.

The Act, which was the subject of a study by a joint Selection Committee of both Houses of Parliament following objections by the Minister of Public Utilities and Transport, the Hon. Parnell Charles.

Mr. Charles submitted to the House the report of the Committee which detailed sweeping amend-

ments, making penalties more severe and at the same time reducing some of the powers of the Minister in favour of the Resident Magistrate, without affecting the stringency of the Bill.

The Minister pointed to the dangers that illegal traffic of drugs was posing to Jamaica's airspace, as he lamented that a number of persons were ignoring this while seeking to "get rich quick" out of the drug trade.

With the Bill coming into force, the "cancer of drugs" on the body of

Jamaicans was being caught in its early stages, he said, adding: "It can be cured if we have the will, courage and determination to do so".

He warned that if his colleagues become apologists for the drug-dealers who used Jamaica as a trans-shipment port for cocaine and heroine and for the export of ganja, they would be a party to the growth of "this cancer" destroying the country.

The illegal planes weakened security, endangered the lives of pilots, tourists, the Jamaican people, and M-16 rifles and rabies-infested dogs, he said.

The time had come when the country's leaders must get up and lead or get out of the way, he said, pledging: "I am not following them, associating with them or leading them" as he made a call for concerned action against the drug trade which he said was set to destroy the institutions of the country.

He expressed concern about the possible backlash that the trade would engender from the United States and Canada who would be stronger in their onslaught on the trafficking of drugs on national sea and air transport vessels.

Jamaica's chances in the C.B.I. would be damaged with prospect of losing air licences.

"I want to publicly declare war on those who are apologists for the drug trade," he said.

The Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. Percival Broderick, supported the amendment but cautioned that the use and abuse of drugs must not be dealt with in the debate, rather, it should be the subject of a substantive motion on its own.

His Ministry would co-operate to address the mis-use of state-owned lands for illegal airstrips; and deal with farmers who wrongfully used farm benefits to further the cultivation of ganja.

"The country and international community must know that the Government will not tolerate the use and abuse of drugs," he declared.

Other speakers supporting the amendment were Mr. Pat Stephens, (West St. Andrew) who called for public education on drug age; Leader of Government Business in the House of Representatives, the Hon. J.A.G. Smith; and Prime Minister Edward Seaga.

Earlier in the sitting which started at 2.10 p.m. with 32 members present, the 1980 Annual Report of the Jamaica Development Bank was tabled.

Debate on a Corrections Bill amendment will continue today; while Mr. Charles move an amendment to the Road Traffic Act, already read in the House.

It is also expected that the Minister of Health, the Hon. Kenneth Baugh, will make a statement on the state of the nation's health services. He had been down to make it yesterday.

CSO: 3298/007

## ALL FIRST-QUARTER IMF PERFORMANCE TARGETS MET

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 12 Sep 84 pp 1, 3

[Text]

All performance targets were achieved for the April-to-June first quarter of the current fiscal year under the IMF programme, the House of Representatives was told yesterday in the Quarterly Economic Report prepared by the Planning Institute and tabled by Prime Minister and Minister of Finance the Rt. Hon Edward Seaga.

The report as summarised by the JIS said there were improvements in Jamaica's external and fiscal accounts for the quarter. Net international reserves increased by US\$116 million, some US\$12 million above the target; Government revenue was J\$17 million more than projected.

On the negative side the consumer price index rose from 444.8 to 498.7 from April 1 to June 30, a 12 per cent rise; and Gross Domestic Product for the fiscal year is now running at an annualised rate of one per cent decline.

The JIS summary stated:

"All performance targets in the quarter were met in the IMF-assistance programme to Jamaica. Balance-of-payments, fiscal and monetary targets are intended to complement the Structural Adjustment Programme — a World Bank supported effort to diversify the island's export base, promote efficient import substitution and shift the focus of growth from the public or government sector to the private sector.

Net international reserves increased by US\$116 million or some US\$12 million above the programme target for the period and the target for payment of private sector debt arrears was also achieved.

Government revenue was J\$17 mil-

lion more than projected which contributed to holding the deficit on the fiscal account well below the maximum allowed by the programme.

Exports were US\$59 million above target although sectoral performance varied, with strong growth in the bauxite sector and non-traditional exports. Exports of crude bauxite were nearly three times better and alumina shipments were up by more than one-third, compared with April to June 1983.

Non-traditional exports were over US\$10 million or 34 percent higher than the corresponding quarter, a most encouraging trend. However, traditional exports fell — sugar by 24 per cent and bananas by 68 per cent.

Imports were \$9.5 million above target in the first quarter of the fiscal year but slightly under the comparable period of 1983. And despite the liberalization of import policy, there was a welcome shift away from consumer goods towards capital goods and raw materials.

Given the sharp increase in exports the balance on merchandise trade improved by 45 percent.

Tourist arrivals were up 9.4 per cent above the level for April to June 1983 and it is expected that growth will be sustained throughout the all important winter season ahead.

While the performance of the manufacturing sector as a whole was mixed there were encouraging results in some sub-sectors. Export values of beverages and tobacco jumped 79 per cent, chemicals rose 18 per cent, and the category of miscellaneous manufactures more than doubled.

Monetary Aggregates

Progress on monetary targets was also



satisfactory in the first quarter. Money supply, which is targeted at 15 per cent growth for the fiscal year, is below ceiling for the quarter. The Central Bank's level of net domestic assets is J\$3,515 million, J\$44.3 million below ceiling. Similarly, growth in commercial bank credit which is limited to J\$250 million for the year, is J\$19 million below ceiling for the quarter.

Consumer prices have risen sharply following the earlier devaluation, the reduction in subsidies and increases in various taxes. The consumer price index rose from 444.8 to 498.7 from April 1 to June 30, a 12.1 percent rise. However the rate of increase is expected to slow down if labour and production costs are restrained and there is no significant change in the exchange rate of the Jamaican dollar.

Investment demand strengthened with capital goods imports valued at US\$83 million in the quarter, versus US\$67 million in the corresponding quarter of 1983. Other indicators are an 18 per cent increase in cement production (82,000 tons) and new capital investment valued at J\$70.6 million, J\$19 million more than in the comparable period of '83.

Gross Domestic Product for the fiscal year is now running at an annualised rate of one per cent decline. Prospects for positive growth depend on increased exports and on whether more money for capital goods imports become available during the rest of the fiscal year. Electricity consumption by commercial and industrial users fell 15 per cent during April and May. While this is usually a rough indicator of business activity, the reduction in this case also reflects greater conservation in response to the sharp rises in rates.

The recently introduced Food Aid Programme will buffer to some extent, the effects of increased prices on the poorer half of the population. According to the paper, government is seeking additional investment finance in order to strengthen the export drive. If the present favourable trends are sustained there should be an easing of credit restrictions in the next fiscal year and significant economic recovery."

## MANLEY DISCUSSES 'CLEAR CHOICE' FOR NATION'S FUTURE

### Role of Government

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 10 Sep 84 p 3

[Text] PEOPLE'S NATIONAL PARTY (PNP) leader, Mr. Michael Manley, has said that Jamaica now has a very clear choice between mobilizing itself to deal with its problems, or continuing to say that Government alone is responsible for solving those problems.

Mr. Manley was speaking at the dinner and dance hosted by the Clarendon College Past Students Association at the Hotel Oceana, Downtown Kingston on Friday night.

The function honoured the past principal of the school, Mr. John McMillan and his wife, as well as paying tribute to the success of its team at the 1984 Boy's Athletic Championships. The function was however poorly attended, leading the Association's president, Mr. Hugh Whittaker, to comment that the size of the audience was not a reflection of the work put into it, but was probably a factor of "hard times".

Mr. Manley, the guest speaker, spoke of the evolution of the educational process in Jamaica, and dealt with two aspects of how the country's educational system related to the society and the fundamental contribution that it could make.

He said that recently the whole country must be concerned about the difficulties being experienced by schools opening up for the new school year. There was almost a "sense of agony" in the country today at the general story of what was happening in education at the moment, he said.

"Yet out of that difficulty, there is, as is with all crises, opportunity and, what Jamaica needs is to learn something about what the crisis implies, as well as to try to learn something about what the crisis challenges us to do," he said.

Using as an example of the educational crisis that he had been told that students at a school in the East-Central Kingston constituency, which he formerly represented, were required to take chairs to one school, Mr. Manley said that the request was a logical response, by a particular community, to the fact that

there was a shortage of chairs in the school, which was evidently due to economic problems.

"What interests me at the moment is that, Jamaica now has a choice, a very clear, simple choice. It can either say forever and ever, governments alone are responsible for things and when Government don't provide them, Government is at fault; or, Jamaica can say, we are in a crisis, we have a difficulty, can we who are the people of Jamaica mobilize ourselves in some meaningful and practical way to deal with the reality of our difficulty?"

He said that his own belief was that Jamaica had to learn to mobilize itself on a community basis, outside of what governments could do and outside of what political parties were responsible for, to deal with whatever were the "practical priorities" that presented themselves.

"I do not believe that in the foreseeable future, we are going to very easily come to a time when governments can deal with the problem of the whole educational plant by just having more and more millions to spend. Anybody who suggests that that is going to be so, quite apart from deceiving the people, most importantly would be deceiving themselves, because we are going to be in this crisis for sometime. But that is not to say that we have to leave the whole thing to chance, to despair to bitterness and confusion.

He said that Jamaica despite a very extraordinary record of accomplishments as a people, was struggling with an economy that was obviously floundering.

"We are in very deep trouble economically and this must be obvious to everybody. Somewhere in the history and the culture of our country, we have not yet begun to evolve a natural aptitude for an highly efficient national organization of production.

"There are all sorts of reasons that can help to explain this; bound up in our tradition of slavery, bound up in our tradition of colonialism, bound up in the nature of the evolution of the Jamaican economy, through the whole plantation structure and into the modern world. But, nevertheless, the fact of the matter is that there are very deep problems."

Mr. Manley said that one of the things that the educationists had to deal with in this country, was the understanding that in the production of a rounded and complete personality, they have also to find a way to make the education system create a person who had an instinctive sense of economic production: an instinctive sense of the demands of productivity, of the demands of industrial and agricultural discipline and efficiency.

"You have somehow to be able to begin to evolve out of our education system, people who if they have the training and obviously are going to be on the management and technocratic side, come of that (training) with a sense of how to deal with workers. Or, in people who are going to come out at the worker level of things, rather than the management level of things, how to have an instinctive sense of industrial discipline and productivity; how to be able to see production at the work place, not as an arena of conflict, but as the place where you make the most fundamental national contribution of all, which is the contribution of the production of goods and services.

He said that the area of instinctive culture was the critical challenge that the country faced; the instinctive attitudes that people brought to the different elements of production.

Turning to the Jose Marti School, he said that he knew of nothing taking place in Jamaica today which he regarded as more tragic than the fact that the "authorities of this country" could think of changing the nature of the Jose Marti School.

"What is very significant about the Jose Marti School has nothing to do with who built it or how it came to be here, that is just a kind of irrelevance that propagandists amuse themselves with. What is relevant about Jose Marti School, was that it was a very important attempt to introduce work study method of education as a significant component in our system.

"Nothing is more dangerous than a situation where you separate in the mind of a child the question of the intellectual skills, whatever they may be, that are necessary for production, from the experience of production itself.

"When I heard that they were thinking of shutting down Jose Marti and turning it into just another kind of school, to me it was not only a tragedy, but was a sign of a monumental incapacity by the authorities of Jamaica to really understand what our problems are and to really understand what to do about them.

"If Jamaica's greatest crisis today is production, if we are watching years of effort spent on that and still we are struggling with the problem of production, then at some point we had better turn our mind to the question, what is the great new step forward that our educational system has to take that produces people who are socially viable and capable," he said.

Master of Ceremonies was Mr. Howard Taylor, the Rev. S.A. Webley, gave the invocation, Mr. Gillie Russell paid tribute to the school's athletes and Mrs. Donna Bhoorasingh read a citation to Mr. McMillan.

#### Preparation for Elections

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 10 Sep 84 p 16

[Text]

Gleaner Western Bureau	dinner held at the Casa	by all 60 constituency
The President of the	Montego Hotel in Mont-	representatives was the
Peoples National Party,	tego Bay on Wednesday	highlight of a two-day
Mr. Michael Manley has	night the party's presi-	retreat which began in
urged supporters of the	dent said that a high	the tourist resort on
party to prepare to face	level of seriousness was	Wednesday morning.
any elections with a	required, in light of the	Mr. Manley told the
deep sense of serious-	depth of the problems	large gathering at the
ness and dedication.	which the party would	\$50 a plate fund raising
	have to deal with.	dinner that once the
Addressing a PNP	The dinner attended	new electoral system

was in place the PNP would no longer consider the government as having the moral right to lead the country. It was against such background he said that the people should prepare themselves to face the future with "an interesting mixture of attitude"

Mr. Manley continued "it is important that this election be faced with a great sense of seriousness and edification." "We should approach it with a sense of humility in the face of the responsibility which it will take and with a sense of seriousness because of the depth of the problem which we will have to face."

Once an election was over it would be necessary to find a way to unite the the people for the tremendous task that would have to be undertaken in the field of production, Mr. Manely noted. Such a move was of necessity, he said to ensure that when the

programme of land reform was resume "it will be done with exemplary efficiency that people not only get the land but are organising the basis where they produce with that land."

It was the intention of his party Mr. Manley said to resume "the forward march of small business in Jamaica", and it would be necessary to ensure that the institutions were put in place to help the small business to be effective and efficient.

It will be incumbent on the PNP Mr. Manley said to resume a programme of designing economics community organisation that will be service with a great level of efficiency and effectiveness.

The Party have to be ready for those challenges and that is why "I am approaching the election with a tremendous sense of seriousness Mr. Manely said, to thunderous applause."



## PNP VOICES OBJECTION TO GLEANER VIEWS ON MANLEY

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 12 Sep 84 p 8

[Text]

THE EDITOR Sir:

The People's National Party has noted with disbelief the headline "Return of Manley seen as only challenge to regional calm", which appeared on Page 15 of the *Gleaner* of Tuesday, September 4, 1984.

A careful reading of the article revealed that the headline bears no relevance to the substance and, in fact, one is left to wonder by what magic was the headline arrived at.

The article itself makes three references to Mr. Manley and at no time does the article suggest that a return to power by Mr. Manley and the People's National Party would challenge Regional calm.

In fact, what the article said was "the possible return of Michael Manley to power in Jamaica sometime in the next five years was the only challenge to the business oriented conservative governments of the Region." Further reference is made in the article to speculated covert action by President Reagan to try and discredit Mr. Manley and the possibility of any such attempt leading to turmoil in Jamaica.

The People's National Party is at a loss to understand, therefore, by what discernible logic is the headline chosen.

The People's National Party would, therefore, like the *Gleaner* to tell Jamaica why it has tried to put a headline which is completely mislead-

ing on an article bearing no relevance to the body of that article.

The People's National Party is not unaware that since the speech by Mr. Manley to the Montego Bay Chamber of Commerce, which is being hailed by every well thinking Jamaican, there have been subtle and not so subtle attempts by the *Gleaner* to try to bring Mr. Manley's name into disrepute.

The People's National Party has always believed in the freedom of the Press and during its tenure of office has sought at every juncture to ensure that the Press operates as freely as possible.

However, the fact remains that there must be some standards and one would expect that a newspaper which is celebrating 150 years of existence would be at the forefront in setting professional standards.

The People's National Party accepts the daily cut and thrust of politics but does not believe that the *Gleaner* has the right to behave politically and then hide behind the facade of a free press. The *Gleaner* cannot have it both ways.

The People's National Party feels that the headline is scandalous to say the least and calls on the *Gleaner* to ensure that it behaves in a professional manner.

PAUL ROBERTSON,  
General Secretary,  
September 4, 1984.

CSO: 3298/008

## SPECULATION ON CALLING OF LOCAL-GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 9 Sep 84 p 16

[Article by Franklin McKnight]

[Text]

**B**Y THE END OF THIS MONTH it will be possible for the Government to call, if it wishes, Local Government elections. These elections became due in March of this year when Government called for their postponement for a period of as much as one year. If in March of next year the Government still wishes, for whatever reason to further postpone the elections, it may legally do so.

It is, however, my understanding that the Government does not intend to ask for a postponement of that date and that the elections may very well be held this year. The Electoral Office now has a committee studying Parish Council division boundaries and that committee is expected to complete its work by the end of this month. It is doubtful that the recommendations of the committee would be considered before the next Local Government elections.

If Government does not intend to call for a further postponement of the elections in March next year then chances are that the elections would be called before the start of the 1984-85 winter tourist season which begins in mid-December.

### Test of strength

There are several factors favouring the calling of these elections in a short time. One of them is the

fact that there are many vacant Parish Council seats which need to be filled. Some of these have been vacant for well over one year; others became vacant when Councillors were chosen to contest the snap-elections last December. Others seats have become vacant since then, because Councillors who were not granted leave have been absent from six consecutive monthly meetings of the councils. And yet other seats have been made vacant by resignations. I gather that some of the vacancies have not yet been reported to the Electoral Office but checks have shown that there are vacancies in all but four of the councils — St. James, St. Thomas, Clarendon and Trelawny. In several other divisions the attendance of Councillors at meetings has been so bad that they cannot be really said to be representing their divisions.

To fill these vacancies which amount to less than 10% of the Parish Council divisions, the Government could, of course, go the route of by-elections but that does not seem favoured.

From a political point of view the parties may want to see a run-off at the Parish Council elections for a test of strength. Both the PNP and the JLP are in the process of identifying those candidates whom they will run. The WPJ which is intensifying its activities in Western Jamaica is also identifying its own candidates. Local Government elections would also provide a test of the new voter-ID system which should be in place by mid-October.

### Demonstrations

But the elections will not solve the problems being faced by the councils at this time. They might put a man or woman in each of the 275 Parish Council Divisions, but what type of tangible benefits would those representatives be able to provide for their areas? At the moment Parish Councillors are expressing their frustration at being unable to get funds to carry out improvements to services in

their areas. This is made clear by the regularity with which protest demonstrations are being staged all over the country against the poor conditions of roads and chronically poor water supplies which are the responsibility of councils.

This situation arises because the Councils' budgets have not increased in real terms in the last two years. From one Council to another, Councillors argue that it is a waste of their time to come to meetings.

It is my view that many of the quarrels in the Councils, between officers and the elected representatives stems from the shortage of funds and the inability of the councils to provide the services required by people especially in rural areas. The more recently publicised incidents of Councillors in the KSAC calling for the resignation of the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Local Government and the frequent verbal clashes between KSAC Councillors and officers are part and parcel of this. Other councils also have similar problems and from meeting to meeting discussions on how to provide services for the people is overshadowed or prevented by personal clashes, sometimes even between councillors of the same party as in St. Thomas last month.

Local Government is not healthy at the moment. The state of the country's finances has made matters worse, for more demands are put on the Councils at a time when they are more and more unable to deliver. Parish Councillors have already served their time. Several divisions are left unserved. It will be interesting to see how in the face of all this the people will vote in Local Government Elections.

CSO: 3298/008

WORKERS PARTY ENGAGED IN STEPPED-UP POLITICAL ACTIVITY

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 9 Sep 84 p 2

[Excerpts] A rift, caused by politics in the Black River Citizens Association is threatening the future of the Association and attracting much attention in Black River and the parish of St. Elizabeth.

According to information reaching the Gleaner the President of the Black River Citizens Association, Mr. Vincent Samuels has come under pressure to have his 1st Vice President, Mr. Michael B. Clarke, Workers Party of Jamaica South St. Elizabeth Constituency representative removed from office in the Association. The view is that the political affiliation and activities of Mr. Clarke are not in the interest of a non-political citizens associaton.

Mr. Samuels has reportedly asked for Mr. Clarke's resignation but Mr. Clarke will not budge. In response, Mr. Samuels has threatened to resign.

Mr. Samuels said that the information contained in the WPJ newsletter of August 3 gave him the impression that Mr. Clarke's political activities in the WPJ have created a conflict of interest with his leadership role as 1st vice president of the St. Elizabeth Citizens Association.

However, Mr. Samuels does not have the whole executive behind him on his stand as several members are of the view that Mr. Clarke's activities do not in any way affect his contribution to the Association, and that he has not been "preaching WPJ politics" in the Association. Some however, including at least one Councillor have been saying that the association is being used as the spring board for persons with political ambitions.

The WPJ news letter which Mr. Samuels brought to the meeting made several reference to Mr. Clarke. It said in part, "The Seaga IMF Government has got to be destroyed and the people shall have to make sure that in removing Seaga you know what type of Government, and what type of policy you want and demand it." It spoke of the WPJ and "revolutionaries like Code Michael Clarke" building a "People's Jamaica wherein the majority shall hold the handle while the minority shall feel the blade."

The newsletter said that Mr. Clarke had over the last two months visited over 200 citizens in house to house visits in White Hall, Great Bay, School House, Round Hill, Oxford, Knoxwood and Diligent. He also visited the police "JPs, parsons and other influential citizens."

Reports from correspondents have spoken of a stepping up of WPJ activities in parishes in western Jamaica including Westmoreland. In house to house visits in July, WPJ leader, Dr. Trevor Munroe was reportedly chased out of a socially depressed district called "Russia" in Savanna-la-mar. The WPJ while acknowledging that the visit did take place said their leader was not chased.

CSO: 3298/009



## CARL STONE DISCUSSES POLLS ON PARTY AFFILIATION

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 12 Sep 84 p 8

[Article by Carl Stone]

**[Text]** THE ISSUE OF INDEPENDENT voters and the two-party system has been the subject of some interesting comments in the press and in the Senate recently.

I recall that in my earlier years as a pollster, I was very struck by the large percentage of the eligible voters interviewed shortly after the PNP won its big victory in 1976 who insisted that they were not in support of either the PNP or the JLP.

Between November-December 1976 and November 1977 that percentage of persons uncommitted to PNP or JLP rose from 15% to 25% and by March 1978 it went up further to 35% before climbing as high as 40% by June 1978.

PNP support had dropped from 48% to 28% over the period and JLP support had also fallen from 37% to 32% over this 1976 to 1978 period of a mere 18 months between December and June.

At the time analysts (including Dr. Aggrey Brown on Public Eye as well as myself) interpreted this build-up of large numbers of uncommitted voters as indicating declining support for the two major parties.

It turned out to be no such thing. By December 1979 the percentage of uncommitted persons fell to 16% as the opposi-

tion JLP captured the mood of the country. Between June 1978 and December 1979 JLP support climbed from 32% to 47% and PNP support went from 28% to 37%.

In effect, the uncommitted voters are an integral part of the support for the two major parties but their political interest is seasonal. They come out for the JLP and the PNP only during the intense campaign period leading into elections. Some will never vote but in the 1970's our data show that the majority has come out decisively in favour of whichever of the two parties is more popular.

### Uncommitted

The 35% level of uncommitted voters reflected in recent political surveys should therefore not be read to mean that support for the two-party system is falling. There are some middle class persons who have developed an antipathy to both parties but they represent an infinitely small section of the electorate and their sentiments are not shared by the majority.

Of course, how many of that 35% will actually vote depends on the impact of the political mobilisation that takes place before the next parliamentary election.

The relative inactivity of the PNP opposition and the limited impact of the WPJ contributes to the high level of uncommitted voters and we will only know how many are really turned off of the major parties when the parties get fully activated in a campaign.

In the dead season between elections, expressed support for the two major parties tends to be somewhere between 60% and 65% of the persons we interview, with 35% to 40% usually uncommitted.

To interpret this high level of temporary non-support for the JLP or the PNP as potential support for a third party or a coalition of third force leaders is quite misleading.

## Listenership

In a low turnout election, at least 10% to 15% out of that current 35% uncommitted will vote and in a high turnout contest some 20% will do so.

Like radio listenership and other such habits, party voting in Jamaica for the JLP and the PNP has become a well ingrained habit that is not going to change easily.

I vividly remember Millard Johnson's PPP pulling out crowds as big as those who went to JLP or PNP meetings in 1962 when he spoke to the sensitive issue of race at a time when people of my colour could not get employment in enterprises like commercial banks.

Millard scared the pants off the JLP and the PNP who directed their campaigns more at him than at each other.

No other third party including Dr. Munroe's WPJ has ever had that level of impact on the political community. Yet when the votes were counted Johnson's party was wiped out. Johnson's PPP which had so frightened the JLP and the PNP got less than 1% of the vote.

## Independents

Today the WPJ is working harder than any other third party has to establish networks of community support across the island. Yet the most recent polls show the WPJ as not moving beyond its 2% share of the electorate.

In the 1944 and 1955 period when independents commanded a lot of vote support the nature of politics in the country was very different from today. The country was mainly rural and voting was based as much on local issues and personalities as on national issues and personalities.

Since then, the politics of the country has become centralised. Power is highly centralised and political issues are focused on the national rather than on the local level.

It is not easy for either independents or minor parties to break into the PNP-JLP monopoly and one should not misread cyclical fluctuations in JLP-PNP support to mean secular decline in the support for the two-party system.

## DISPUTE ERUPTS OVER STEEL IMPORTS-LAYOFFS LINKS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 8 Sep 84 pp 1, 3

[Text]

**A** claim by the Caribbean Steel Company in Spanish Town, St. Catherine, that the importation of over 2,000 tons of steel from Europe by the Incorporated Masterbuilders Association has in part led to the lay-off of 70 workers, has re-kindled a war of words between the two parties over the question of steel importation.

Caribbean Steel's managing director, Mr. Neville Scarlett, claims that the importation of 2,209 tons of steel by the Masterbuilders this year, the importation of steel coils by another local steel company, B.R.C. Jamaica Limited, plus the slump in the construction industry this year has forced it to lay-off 70 of its 104 production workers.

But a Masterbuilders source has countered, accusing Mr. Scarlett of trying to use the steel importation by the Association as a "scape-goat" for its failure to sell its product.

The builders also pointed out that for the whole of last year Caribbean Steel (the local steel mill), had only been able to produce certain sizes of steel bars and in insufficient quantities. In addition, the builders pointed out that since this year, the company has had a eight-week strike which severely hampered the industry.

The steel mill had also been affected by strikes in July, 1981 and October 1982. This year's strike which lasted for over two months involved the dismissal of a worker involved in a fight with another worker. Following the strike, the BITU, which had represented the workers, was replaced by the NWU in a representational rights poll.

The mill laid-off the workers last week Friday for 6 to 8 weeks. The first two to three weeks will be vacation leave for the workers who are owed such leave, while for the rest they will be paid at half their weekly wages.

The lay-off, however, will not affect the availability of steel from the company, as there is a tremendous backlog which it hopes to significantly reduce during the lay-off period.

Mr. Scarlett, told the Gleaner that the lay-offs were triggered by the slump in the construction trade, as well as the importation of steel by the Masterbuilders and B.R.C. Limited from sources outside of CARL-COM.

B.R.C. Jamaica Limited, imports steel coils from Trinidad and Tobago to make steel bars for sale here. Mr. Scarlett said that they were importing steel from Venezuela as well. He said that 500 tons of steel arrived in the island on Wednesday for the company. The Gleaner was unable to contact B.R.C. for comment.

The Masterbuilders imported 2,209 tons of steel from Spain earlier this year, but a source at the Association said that they had been negotiating the importation from 1982 and was held up by problems with the Rehabilitation Fund. The original import permit ran out last year and a

new permit had to be granted. The steel arrived around April and is being sold by the Association.

A source at the Masterbuilders accused Caribbean Steel of trying to use the importation of the steelbars from Spain by the Association as a "scapegoat," because of the failures of the Mill, including its inability to provide the needs of the industry on a consistent basis.

The Masterbuilders' source said that the steel was strictly for members of the Association and could not be sold to the general public. He said that before the steel could be imported lengthy negotiations had been held and the Association had to provide the Government with the names of its members who needed the product as well as how much they needed.

The Association has said that the imported steel is high tensile 40-foot bars compared to the mild quality 30-foot long steel produced by the Mill, and has been imported at a much cheaper price than the local mill could produce it.

The builders have said, however, that the steel bars produced by the local mill was not sub-standard compared to the imported product and had met the standards set by the Bureau of Standards.

Mr. Scarlett told the *Gleaner* Thursday that the Trade Board, which grants the licences for the importation, should have contacted his company to see if it could fill the needs of the industry before granting the licences, but that this was not

done in this case.

Contacted for comment a spokesman for the Trade Board yesterday promised to investigate the matter and give the *Gleaner* a reply by next week. However, the spokesman confirmed that the Board would generally check to see if local firms could fulfil the needs before granting import licences for restricted products.

Mr. Scarlett in a letter to the *Gleaner* last month, had said that it was "irresponsible" for the country to use scarce foreign exchange to import over 2,000 tons of steel when there was no real demand because of the building slump, and when the local manufacturer was experiencing difficulty in disposing of its products.

He said that his company had enormous stocks in storage and the lay-offs would not affect its ability to sell; "What we are trying to do is to sell off some of the backlog," he said.

He said that the company's sales had taken a nose-dive in the last two months, because of the credit squeeze and the reduction of construction in the public sector. A 30 per cent fall in construction had been expected by his company, but this had turned out to be more in the region of 45 per cent.

About 45 workers are still working at Caribbean Steel, including mainly maintenance and delivery workers, as the company will be carrying out the servicing of its machinery, which is normally done in December, and trying to sell off its stockpile, in the meantime.

## BRIEFS

COLOMBIAN MINING MINISTER--Dr. Alvaro Leyva, Colombia's Minister of Mining and Energy is visiting Jamaica from today to Friday, to hold discussions with the Hon. Hugh Hart, Minister of Mining, Energy and Tourism. Dr. Leyva and Mr. Hart will conclude an agreement for a joint smelter project. The agreement will be signed by the two Ministers at Jamaica House tomorrow afternoon. The meeting between Mr. Hart and Dr. Leyva is follow-up to discussions on possible areas of economic co-operation between the two countries which the Jamaican Minister had in Colombia in February this year. One of the matters discussed was a proposal to use Jamaica's bauxite and Colombia's coal in an aluminium project to be sited in Colombia. Since then there have been talks and the stage is now reached for the signing of an agreement which will be the basis for work to begin on the project. The signing will be followed by a press conference at 4 p.m. at Jamaica House, a JIS report said. [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 12 Sep 84 p 3]

BELGIAN LOAN TO JRS--An agreement for a loan of eight million Belgian francs (J\$558,400) from the Government of Belgium to the Government of Jamaica was signed yesterday at the Ministry of Finance. The funds will be used by the Jamaica Public Service Company to complete payment for a transformer and spare parts from Belgium. Mr. Harold Milner, Financial Secretary, signed on behalf of the Jamaican Government and Mr. Jan Bousse, Belgian Ambassador to Jamaica, signed for his country. The loan attracts a rate of interest of 2 per cent. There is a ten-year grace period on both loan and interest, the first payment of which is due at the end of December 1995. The loan is to be repayed in 20 annual instalments, a J.I.S. report said. Mr. Milner expressed the appreciation of the Government for the loan on such favourable terms. The Ambassador in turn said that his Government looked forward to the development of further cooperation between the two countries. Mr. Bousse was accompanied by Mr. H. Portocarero, First Secretary in the Embassy. The Bank of Jamaica was represented by Mrs. Deborah Mordecai, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs by Mrs. Cordell Wilson. Also taking part in the ceremony was Mrs. Valeria Brown, of the Economics Division of the Ministry of Finance. [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 11 Sep 84 p 17]



PAPER STATES 'CASE' AGAINST OSBORNE, OTHER MINISTERS

List of Accusations

Plymouth THE MONTSERRAT TIMES in English 3 Aug 84 p 1

[Text] Accused

--Of squandering the mandate given by the people in February, 1983.

--Failure to pay due attention to matters relating to the island's image.

--Conspiracy to hide the truth from the people of Montserrat in respect of the Little Bay transactions.

--Conspiracy to deprive the people of good Government.

--Causing grievous harm to the process and progress of democracy on Montserrat.

--Assault and battery against the pride, dignity and intelligence of the good people of Montserrat.

--Using the power of elected office for purposes other than those stated in the island's constitution.

--Conspiracy to resist the wishes of the masses on issues fundamental to social, cultural, moral and economic growth.

--Disturbing the peace by repeatedly broadcasting statements which irritate citizens of sound moral and political judgement.

--Failure to hold public meetings and promote constant and open communication with the electorate.

--Presiding over the economic and political decline of Montserrat.

PHOTO CAPTIONS

1. DEFENDANT NO. 1: John Alfred Osborne, also known as John Bassey, Chief Minister, Minister of Finance, Tourism and Economic Development. Last

known address: National State Building, Church Road, Plymouth, Montserrat.

2. DEFENDANT NO. 2: Margaret Annie Dyer, Minister of Education, Health and Community Services. Last known address: Richmond Hill, Montserrat.
3. DEFENDANT NO. 3: Mr. J. Benjamin Chalmers, also known as Benjie, Minister for Agriculture, Trade, Lands and Housing. Last known address: Near Gigies Joint, Cudjoe Head, Montserrat.
4. DEFENDANT No. 4: Noel Tuitt, also known as "Dadda", Minister of Communications, Works and Labour. Last known address: Bramble's Village, Montserrat.

#### Indictment of Accused

Plymouth THE MONTSEERRAT TIMES in English 3 Aug 84 p 6

[Editorial]

[Text]

Voters and other citizens of Montserrat, it is your duty to judge the evidence presented in this indictment and come to a conclusion without political partisan considerations.

The facts of this case are simple. The principal witness for the prosecution, David Kenneth Hay Dale, is Governor of the Colony of Montserrat and therefore presides over meetings of the Executive Council.

In his evidence Chief Witness Dale said that Defendant No. 1, John Alfred Osborne, signed an agreement in principle with Rozah Enterprises in Miami to develop Little Bay on August 6th, 1983. That agreement was subject to the approval of the Executive Council.

Witness Dale who keeps the minutes of the Executive Council has proven by word and by fact that the Executive Council has not to this day approved the proposal of Rozah whose Chief Executive is a certain Mr. Ismaili.

But Witness Dale in Exhibit #6, has produced an affidavit sworn to by Defendant #1, Osborne, on January 18, 1984, in which he says: "the truth is, Mr. Ismaili had successfully negotiated an agreement with our Government on August 3rd, 1983."

Members of the Jury, that statement and that affidavit constitute the most shocking indictment against an elected leader in the history of Montserrat.

What is even worse is that the Defendant Osborne, on July 16, 1984, told the Legislature that he had never made any such statement.

So there we are, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Jury, we have a Chief Minister swearing on oath before his Permanent Secretary and Mr. John Kelsick that Mr. Ismaili successfully negotiated an agreement with our Government on August 3rd, 1983, and then denying that he had done so before the Legislature on July 16, 1984.

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Jury, our Honourable Chief Minister ought to be more consistent than Johnny MacBrowne. Call it lying, call it misrepresentation of truth, call it deception by use of terminological inexactitudes, the conduct of Defendant Osborne deserves the strongest condemnation a democracy can give.

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Jury, why was that affidavit sworn to on quasi-official Government House notepaper? Defendant Osborne said the paper was a gift and was mistakenly used. **MISTAKENLY!** Why did he not use the official notepaper of the Chief Minister's office? Did he ask the Hon. Attorney General to advise him before swearing to the affidavit? Obviously not, and why not? It's a matter for you. You are men and women of the world. It is my duty to remind you that a man who has been a member of the Legislature since March 31, 1966 (at 4 p.m.), can find no excuse for not knowing that taxpayers pay the Hon. Chief Minister to know, *inter alia*, that the Hon. Attorney General is paid to advise him.

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Jury, I cannot overemphasize the seriousness of the matters before you. Our reputation and credibility as a Colony depends on the credibility of our leaders. Robert T. Scott, a lawyer for Perini Corporation, wrote as follows to Defendant No. 1, Osborne on February 17, 1984: **"I FIND IT ABSOLUTELY UNBELIEVABLE THAT YOU KNOWINGLY SIGNED YOUR NAME TO PAPERS**

**CONTAINING SUCH OUTRAGEOUSLY FALSE, PERSONALLY DEFAMATORY AND TOTALLY UNTRUE STATEMENTS."**

Defendant No. 2, Dyer, Defendant No. 3, Chalmers, and Defendant No. 4, Tuitt conspired against truth, logic and commonsense when they told us that having read the documents they have found Defendant No. 1, Osborne, guilty of no wrong doing. We cannot allow this kind of wish-washy morality and logic in our Government.

If you do not sentence them to political oblivion, they will demolish the credibility this island has built up over several generations.

A possible fifth Defendant, Brandt, turned Crown Witness on July 30, 1984, and his evidence is very important. In a letter to Defendant No. 1, Osborne, on that date, he said: "irrefragable evidence has emerged which shows conclusively that you lied to your colleagues on the Rozah-Perini affair."

Witness Brandt states further, that Defendant, No. 2, Dyer, Joined him on July 27, in finding Osborne guilty as charged. Yet, Defendant Dyer went on state-owned radio on August 3 to say that she found Osborne guilty of no wrong doing.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I do not think I can help you anymore in this matter. Let me remind you that the defendants are the ones who make laws for the people of this land: they are the people who only last year compulsorily retired two distinguished public servants. They are the ones who have been calling upon workers to produce more. They are the ones who make the decisions which affect our lives.

If sympathy threatens to dominate your hearts, let your heads take over. Tell the defendants: **RESIGN, "IN THE NAME OF GOD, GO."**

CSO: 3298/010

PLM OFFICIAL DAVID BRANDT RESIGNS, REMAINS AS MP

Plymouth THE MONTSERRAT TIMES in English 3 Aug 84 p 7

[Text] [Editor's Note: The following letters are reproduced in full, taking all of page 7 of the 3 August 1984 issue of THE MONTSERRAT TIMES. They are accompanied by the headlines: "The former Deputy Leader of the P.L.M. has taken legal action against Osborne"; "David Brandt resigns from P.L.M. He raps the C.M."; and "WOW!!"]

July 30, 1984

Hon. John Osborne  
Chief Minister, Minister of Finance  
and Leader of the PLM Party  
Chief Minister's Office  
Government Headquarters  
Plymouth

Dear Sir:

I hereby submit my resignation from the PLM Party to take effect immediately. I have come to this decision after much careful and profound consideration.

As you are aware, I did not support the Vote of No Confidence Motion put forward by the Opposition as, in my view, it was unconstitutional and also I had doubts concerning the accuracy and foundation of some of the allegations made against you.

However, irrefragable evidence has emerged which shows conclusively that you lied to your colleagues on the Rozah-Perini affair.

As recently as Thursday, July 27, 1984 at a meeting held at your office with all the elected members of the Party you denied, inter alia, signing and swearing an affidavit to the effect that you had represented to Mr. Ismaili that Executive Council met and approved his agreement on October 4, 1983. At that very meeting the Honourable Margaret Dyer and myself suggested to you that, in the interest of good government and the future of the Party, you should resign as we now have no confidence in your leadership. To this, you replied that if you resigned, "the Party would break up." I do not share this view.

Further, you have failed or refused to take advice from your Caucus members on matter of policy and, in particular, the question of Independence.

I have always believed that the foundation of the Party must be built on trust, integrity and credibility among other virtues. I have found that you have lost these essential virtues.

In light of all of the above, I had no alternative but to resign.

Sincerely

DAVID S. BRANDT  
/ef

cc: Party Chairman,  
Mr. John C. Kelsick

c: Honourable Ministers  
J. B. Chalmers  
Noel Tuitt  
Margaret A. Dyer

July 30, 1984

His Excellency The Governor  
Government House  
Plymouth

Your Excellency:

This is to advise you that I have submitted my resignation to the PLM Party as a Party member, effective immediately, but that I will continue to be a Member of Parliament.

It is my considered opinion that the Westminster-style Parliamentary Democracy to which we aspire would be allowed to trail in the dust if, as an elected member who made that system a special area of study, I remain in a party in which Mr. John Osborne is its leader.

My decision, taken after much study and soul searching, is clearly in accordance with the oath which was administered to me when I became a member of the Legislative Council.

I wish to assure Your Excellency that I remain willing and ready to assist, support and encourage Her Majesty's official representative on Montserrat in any way possible.

Respectively yours

DAVID S. BRANDT  
/ef

cc. Honourable Speaker of the House

CSO: 3298/010



DAILY CLAIMS PRESIDENTIAL ENDORSEMENT OF MORALES BERMUDEZ

Lima EL DIARIO DE MARKA in Spanish 10 Sep 84 p 3

[Article by Oscar Campero]

[Excerpt] President Fernando Belaunde Terry yesterday proposed that Gen Francisco Morales Bermudez run for president at the head of a coalition of Popular Action (AP), the Popular Christian Party (PPC) and the Democratic Movement of National Unity.

Belaunde cited the need to form a joint movement to confront the candidacies of the American Revolutionary Popular Alliance (APRA) and the United Left, "which will be strong."

Referring to the upcoming elections, the president expressed his desire that in the 35 days remaining before candidates must register, some agreement can be reached to join forces to "back two or three, at the most four leaders."

It is very clear, he noted, that "APRA already has a candidate and it will go all the way. It is a candidacy that offers hope for them and caution for others. Next is the United Left, which also already has its candidate."

"Then come the other forces: AP, the PPC and perhaps the one headed by retired Gen Morales Bermudez. I personally believe that these three movements could join into a single one. Of course this would be a temporary alliance to face the other two candidates, who will be strong."

He explained that Gen Morales Bermudez cannot be considered a dictator "because the de facto government that brings elections to the country deserves national recognition for that; we cannot deny it. He restored the country, so he is a very special case."

The surprising statement by the president reminded more than one journalist that the democratic restoration to which Belaunde had alluded had brought him to hold the highest office in the nation in the 1980 elections.

It is well known that Gen Francisco Morales Bermudez has founded a political movement known as the Democratic Front of National United for the sole purpose of nominating him to run for the presidency.

If, as President Belaunde says, Gen Morales Bermudez is a democrat who deserves national recognition, after having served as the de facto president of the Republic, then it is fitting that he hold that office once again by electoral means.

Consequently, Popular Action and the Popular Christian Party would have to give up their presidential candidacies, and Javier Alva Orlandini and Luis Beodya Reyes would have to end their campaigns and accompany him on the presidential ticket or find a place on the parliamentary lists.

President Belaunde made these statements during his inspection of the new building for the Public Records of Peru that is being built on Avenida Domingo Cueto, across from General Hospital No 2 of the Peruvian Social Security Institute.

In his statements to the press, the president of the Republic praised Javier Alva, smoothing the way for him to withdraw from the race, calling him a man who has grown, a fighter, well-qualified, knowledgeable, hard-working, a brave man "who was once imprisoned in El Fronton, which is an honor when one is sent there for political reasons." He stated that in case the proposed alliance does not materialize, "he will continue the struggle as planned. From that standpoint we are not worried. We have a candidate who is the genuine leader of our own troops."

#### Cabinet Resignations

In another matter, the chief of state expressed regret at having to "lose" some members of his cabinet, who will run for legislative office.

"We want to take our best, most experienced people to Parliament. I understand that two or three ministers plan to run."

He revealed that among them is the present minister of the interior, Luis Percovich, "who will be difficult to replace, because he is a man of complete honesty and serenity. But since he is an important leader of AP, we cannot do without his presence in the next Congress."

He said that "many names will be studied" to choose his successor at the ministry, but he denied that Alfonso Baella will be considered.

8926

CSO: 3348/584

# LABOR GROUP BECOMES NATIONALIST LEFT

Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 12 Sep 84 p A-4

[Text] The Workers and Peasants National Front (FNTC) will participate in the next election campaign by calling itself the nationalist left. It will join with the forces whose inspiration lies in that same part of the spectrum to take on the responsibility of building the new society with truth, justice, and freedom for all by means of purely Peruvian socialism.

That was one of the decisions reached at the front's recent Eighth National Congress, according to an announcement by the front's leader, Senator Roger Caceres Velasquez, at a press conference that was held yesterday.

He discounted the possibility of convergence with what he called the traditional right, the old left, and the new right, which he said was embodied in APRA [American Revolutionary Popular Alliance].

He said he was not against the call for democratic dialogue that was issued by former President Jose Luis Bustamante y Rivero. "Our disagreements," he said, "have to do with the scope that some sectors have tried to assign to that appeal, which calls for a democratic alternative."

He also said that he had been nominated for president at the FNTC congress. But this does not mean that he may not relinquish his nomination if other forces want to answer his call to form a nationalist left.

He said that the FNTC's presidential formula will be decided on at the upcoming national plenary meeting on 13 October.

Caceres was accompanied at the press conference by Deputies Aldo Estrada Choque and Marcial Chalco Reyes. The latter spoke to affirm his party's unity.

He also said that the program for government was approved at the recent congress. That program includes all the measures and actions which must be implemented if the FNTC comes to power and which will also serve as permanent models for action and initiative in party life.

11798  
CSO: 3348/586

## PRIVATE ENTERPRISE ASSOCIATIONS FORM CONFEDERATION

Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 14 Sep 84 p A-15

[Text] Yesterday, in the presence of the national press, the chairmen of seven institutions representing the country's private firms subscribed to the establishment of a powerful businessmen's association whose main effort will be directed toward defending the principles of free business initiative, property and private enterprise, and the social market economy.

The new organization is called the National Confederation of Private Business Institutions (CONFIEP), and it consists of the Association of Exporters [ADEX], the Peruvian Chamber of Construction [CAPECO], the Confederation of Chambers of Commerce and Production of Peru [CONFECAMARAS], the National Confederation of Merchants [CONACO], the National Association of Industries [SNI], the National Association of Mining and Petroleum, and the National Association of Fisheries.

Other institutions representing Peruvian private businesses may also join if they apply for admission and are approved by the CONFIEP assembly.

At a press conference held following the signing of the incorporation agreement, the representatives of the various institutions said that unification was an aspiration of businessmen disturbed by the treatment that has been accorded private enterprise--and not only under the previous regime.

CONFIEP has not yet decided on its first public action, but it was stated that a series of meetings to establish contact with the government and top representatives of the political parties would be started.

#### Advantages of Private Enterprise

The advantages of private enterprise will constantly be made known, said Julio Piccini, chairman of CAPECO, when he was asked what stand the new businessmen's association would take in response to those parties that disparage private enterprise.

Piccini was elected chairman of CONFIEP (a post that will be rotated every 6 months). He also said that another activity by CONFIEP, due to the political importance it has assumed, will involve the suggestions it comes up with for running the country.

Also reaffirmed during the press conference was the new business organization's intention to advocate the improvement of Peruvian society and the achievement of human freedom and advancement.

It will also seek to strengthen in Peru a system of private enterprise based on personal freedom, private initiative, remuneration for effort, private property, and an adequate return on investment, all of which are components of the social market economy and the free interplay of supply and demand.

#### Opinions

Carlos Verme Katz, chairman of the SNI and deputy chairman of CONFIEP, first stressed the aspirations of the businessmen and then said that the establishment of this collegial body will also be very useful to the governments and an advantage, inasmuch as they will have in CONFIEP a single interlocutor for the consultations that will have to take place. He added: "Let us hope that dialogue will now become institutionalized."

For his part, Gonzalo Garland, chairman of ADEX, said that CONFIEP's aims also include the defense of democracy as well as the goal of defending private enterprise. In no way would negative stands be adopted, he said: instead, the members would remain attentive to what was being done for the country's development.

Eduardo Iriarte of CONFECAMARAS said in turn that other objectives on the country's behalf include political and economic stability, legal stability and stability in taxes, all of which are necessary for productive investment. Without them, he added, it is possible [as published; presumably impossible intended] to plan.

For his part, Ernesto Baertl, deputy chairman of the National Association of Mining and Petroleum, said that this was a moment of far-reaching importance to the private businessmen because it represented an effort toward such positive achievements as economic recovery.

Eduardo Muelle, deputy chairman of the Association of Fisheries, then spoke to say that concerted action by the businessmen would be directed at all times toward solving problems without confrontation.

Lastly, Enrique Agois, chairman of CONACO, emphasized the political importance of the new institution as well as its apolitical attitude, which he said would enable the businessmen to achieve their objectives, something that they have not always been permitted to do.

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# AIR FORCE HAS IMPROVED MAINTENANCE CAPABILITY

Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 14 Sep 84 p A-10

[Text] The Peruvian Air Force [FAP] has taken a big technological step by completely rebuilding a Hercules turbojet transport plane in its shops, thereby putting the plane in "fresh-from-the-factory" condition at a cost four times less than would have been charged abroad.

The repair job--unprecedented in the history of our country's military aviation--represented savings of 4.8 billion sols (just over \$1 million) and took 7 months, according to Air Force Lt Col Moises Pacheco Pasce, who directed the "Hercules Project."

This kind of work used to be done in the United States or Europe, but now the FAP has a modern maintenance facility, equipped at an investment cost of \$1.5 million, that enables it to perform repair work on Hercules transport planes for any country.

In displaying the repaired aircraft, Air Force Col Carlos Cabrejos Moreno, commanding officer of the Eighth Air Group, announced that for the time being, only strictly military work will be done, but the service will be extended to commercial airlines in the future.

He said that thanks to the FAP's maintenance service, not only are inoperative aircraft being put back into service, but also the national metalworking industry is being stimulated, since private firms are being allowed to supply certain parts.

The schedule calls for five more Hercules planes to undergo "major inspection," as a total reconstruction is called, over a 2-year period. The program employs 45 Peruvian technicians and 4 experts from Lockheed Aircraft Corporation, the consulting firm.

## FAP Also Rebuilds Mirages

As a result of the progress achieved by Peruvian technology, the FAP's shops can also completely rebuild the famous Mirage jet fighters. This makes Peru one of the few nations capable of doing such work.

The Peruvian Air Force's maintenance service, which was established in 1933, is now capable of repairing various aircraft, and for the past few years it has also been manufacturing various aircraft parts.

Peruvian technicians can manufacture the ejection cone for brake parachutes on Mirage aircraft, tanks for the Canberra aircraft, and brake systems for the Buffalo, among other parts.

A previous success achieved in the FAP's shops consisted of repairing giant Buffalo aircraft, which were repaired using Peruvian technology because of delay in receiving the spare parts. Soviet-made Sukhoi aircraft can also be repaired here in Peru.

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## BRIEFS

**PADIN CONSIDERS JOINING IU**--The leadership of the National Integration Party (PADIN) welcomed the proposal by the United Left (IU) that the two political groups participate together in the upcoming elections. In a recent communique, the PADIN National Executive Committee indicated that the final decision will be made at the next congress of that political entity, which is to take place at the end of this month. There two alternatives will be studied: to go alone or to join an alliance with the United Left. The document also completely discredits Deputy Julio Villanueva Gallo's statement that the IU proposal was not well received by members or leaders of the PADIN. "We discredit the statements made by Deputy Villanueva Gallo on this matter; they were made on a personal basis and do not reflect the party's official position, since the agreements of the committee are communicated to the nation by the secretary general," states the note signed by Miguel Angel Mufarech. [Text] [Lima EL DIARIO DE MARKA in Spanish 12 Sep 84 p 4] 8926

**DEBT DOMINATES PROPOSED BUDGET**--The servicing of the foreign debt is expected to cost between 27 and 28 billion sols per day in 1985, including principal and interest, according to the central government's draft budget sent by the Executive to Congress. The approximate total allocated to this expenditure is 10 trillion sols. This figure could drop, however, if the new government immediately begins refinancing the obligations that will fall due as of July of next year. The current administration has rescheduled the due dates to July 1985. The budgeted amount represents nearly 40 percent of the overall 1985 budget: 25.9 trillion sols. In the 1984 budget this figure was 33 percent. As of December of last year, Peru's foreign debt was officially \$12.418 billion. In 1980 the debt amounted to \$9.594 billion. The annual growth rate has been about 7 percent. In 1981, the debt rose to \$9.638 billion; in 1982 it was \$11.097 billion; and in 1983 it reached \$12.418 billion. In 1984 the debt is expected to be no less than \$3 billion, divided among "fresh money," soft loans and credit from suppliers. [Text] [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 9 Sep 84 p A-1] 8926

**JULIA MEETS CHINESE COUNTERPART**--Beijing, 10 September--Yang Dezhi, commander in chief of the Chinese Army, met in Peking with the commander in chief of the Peruvian Army, Lt Gen Julian Julia Freyre. According to the Chinese news agency Xinhua, the two military men last night exchanges views on the "friendly relations" between the Chinese and Peruvian armies, and agreed that they are very close despite the geographical distance. Lt Gen Julian Julia Freyre,

who arrived in Beijing Friday at the invitation of the Chinese Defense Ministry, also met with the assistant chief of the General Staff of the People's Liberation Army of China. The Peruvian commander is the second high-ranking military officer from that country to visit China in recent months; last June the commander in chief of the Peruvian Air Force, Lt Gen Cesar A. Enrico, was in Beijing as well. [Text] [Lima EL DIARIO DE MARKA in Spanish 11 Sep 84 p 5] 8926

BELAUNDE DENIES CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENT--President Fernando Belaunde Terry made it clear yesterday evening that at no time did he endorse the presidential candidacy of retired Gen Francisco Morales Bermudez, who heads the list of a democratic political alliance in connection with the 1985 elections. "Things were not reported the way I said them," explained the president after presiding over the main ceremony marking the 25th anniversary of the law on the training of public accountants. He said that any idea of a national convergence must not ignore important political forces and that General Morales Bermudez heads an important political front. He repeated that possibilities still exist for alliances in connection with next year's elections and that those alliances might be headed by Javier Alva Orlandinbi, Luis Bedoya Reyes, or other independent leaders. [Excerpt] [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 12 Sep 84 p A-4] 11798

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